

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
Conquest of SPAIN
BY THE
MOORS.

Together with the Life of the
Most Illustrious Monarch
ALMANZOR.

And of the several Revolutions
of the Mighty Empire of the *Caliphs*,
and of the *African* Kingdoms.

Composed in *Arabick* by *Abulcacim Tariff Abentariq*, one of the Generals in
that *Spanish* Expedition; and Translated
into *Spanish* by *Michael de Luna*,
Interpreter to *Philip* the Second.

Now made English.

by D^r Gedge
L O N D O N

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To the Most Illustrious
JAMES FITZ-JAMES.

S I R,

THIS Noble *Arabian*
approaches you in an
English Garb, to congratu-
late your *Return* from so fer-
tile and so glorious an *Har-*
vest of *Lawrels*, as the *Scene*
of *Buda* has afforded you this
Campaign; and at the same
time to demand your *Pro-*
tection. His *Quality* of an
Officer, as well as of a *Stran-*
ger, will, doubtless, not only

A 2

apo-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

apologize for this *Intrusion* but *endear* him to all the *Generous* and *Brave*. He courts *Your Patronage*, Sir, as *knowing* that once obtain'd, it will be an infallible *means* to make his own *Merits* known. The *Republick* of *Letters* is more than a little *indebted* to his *Country-men*, for the nicest *Speculations* we have in all sorts of *Sciences*; and *We* particularly to *him* for this *History*, containing such *variety* of *Revolutions* and *Events*. This is *what*, Sir, I hope will *atone* for my *Presumption*, in ushering this *Noble Foreigner* into your *Presence*. He
was

The Epistle Dedicatory.

was sensible he could no where *list* himself under greater *Gallantry* and *Expectation*, and that his being *your Volunteer* afforded *him* a mighty *Prospect* of a new *Scene* of *Conquests*. Here, Sir, he strikes in with the *Universal Opinion*: for how far may we not *extend* our *hopes* from such an *indefatigable Application* to *labour*, such a *matchless Intrepidity*, such a *maturity* of *Conduct* in such *green Years*, such a *number* of *Trophies*, with the *Rapidity* of your *Progresses* in the *Field* of *Honour*, of which the *Spahies*, *Janizaries*, and *Tartars*,

The Epistle Dedicatory.

are the *sad Historians*? Yet tho' the *greatness* of your *Exploits*, Sir, is what all the *World* knows, and all the *World* admires; yet, you have other *Embellishments* that will no less *deck* up your *Triumphs* than all the *lustre* derived from the most *glorious Expeditions*. These are those *precious Gifts*, those *rare Talents* of Nature, that *mixture* of *Sweetness* and *Majesty* that covers all your *Illustrious Person*, that *Character* of a *Hero* engrav'd no less in your *Face* than in your *Actions*; that *easiness* of *Access*, *familiarity* of *Converse*; that
Soul,

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Soul, great, good, and generous, and in every thing *proclaiming* the *Divinity* of your *Extraction*. These are the *Excellencies* that have already gain'd you an *Empire* over all *Hearts*; with which the *Nation* must be *contented*, till such *time* as that our *Mighty Prince* shall bid *March* to the *best Troops* in the *World*. And these are the *Excellencies* that do the more *particularly* engage me to be *eternally*, with *Devotion*,

S I R,

Your most Obedient, and
most Humble Servant,

Matt. Taubman.

THE PREFACE

OF

Abulcacim Tariff Abentariq.

PRaised and Glorified be, for
evermore one sole God ^{*}, <sup>*In Ara-
bick, Alha-
liq, Alha-
din.</sup>
and Creator of all things,
whose Reign is without beginning,
and without middle, as well as
without end. The Being from
whence proceeds all Beings: The
first and only cause that subsists of
it self, and gives motion to all
others, which it causes to act
through incomprehensible Resorts,
moving as it pleases, the Hearts
of all Men, and particularly that
of

The Preface.

of Kings ; to accomplish by them, as second causes upon Earth, what Providence has resolv'd on from all Eternity in Heaven ; who punishes him that merits it by his Justice, and predestines whomever he pleases by his Mercy , seeing written together, and of one and the same date, the past, present and future, in the great Book of his infinite knowledge.

To this great God do I make my humble Addresses, to obtain the force I shall need to write exactly and truly, The History of the Conquest of Spain, and the Wars occasion'd by the Death of Caliph Aboulvalid Almanzor, not only in that great Kingdom, but in Africa, and throughout the whole extent of the Arabians : first of all among the Princes his Children, and afterwards among the

* In Arabick *Mis-
usich*, that
is with-
out doubt,
*Mis-
usich*,
Invention,
by reason
he has
done it
without
any forg-
ing.

The Preface.

the Governours of all his King-
doms ; who after having revolt-
ed against their King, wag'd War
upon one another, about the divi-
sion of that great Empire. As I
will add nothing of my self to such
great events, save such considera-
ble matters as occur'd in those
times ; I neither expect nor merit
Honour or Profit : I only require
of him that shall read what I am
going to write, that he would pray
God to teach me what I ought to
do for his service ; and that he
would supply what is not in me by
his Grace : And indeed I am well
assur'd of being blam'd for having
undertaken so vast a design, and
that several will find (as it is true)

that it required both more lofty
and more polish'd Genuisses than
mine, to give the necessary Weight
and Authority to so great a Work.

But

In Ara-
bick *Fach
meallalbi-
mar*, High-
land.

The Preface.

But after having agreed with them in this, they will allow me to tell them the Reasons that made me take Pen in Hand ; and perhaps, they will be satisfy'd when I shall tell them that I was present in that War, from the first day that General Tariff entred Spain with Count Julian, until that he had finish'd that Conquest ; and that there was no Battel nor Occasion, but whereat I was in Person, excepting the Sieges of Carmona, and of Merida ; by reason that at that time, I was in the Province of Grenada, with that great Captain.

Thus I may say, that I have been an Eye-witness of most of the things whereof I speak ; and that as for those I have not seen in all times, I have had the Curiosity to be informed of them from Persons who

The Preface.

who could know them better ; as from the Principal Officers and Generals of Armies, who have themselves given me the Letters and Memoires whereof I make mention in this History, that I might be accordingly provided for the writing it one time or other.

*Wherefore I may hope that those as shall take the pains to read it, instead of Wondering at my Boldness, will con me thanks for my * Good Will, and will have some * Ni acha mila, Inclination. indulgence for the faults as shall doubtless, in great numbers occur therein, when they shall consider that there is no Body in the World exempt from them, and that we ought to mind our own, before we judge of those of others ; nay, some there will be that will find there would have been much more reason to have blam'd me, had I not made
any*

The Preface.

any Memoires of all I had seen, than to have made them such as they are; and the greatest Criticks will be oblig'd to own, That if all Authors that undertake to write History, had like me, had some part in the Events they describe, their Works would be much better receiv'd by the Publick, and not be, as they are, for the most part, full of Falsities and Uncertainties.

I make no Difficulty to speak in this manner, for as at the very moment that I write these great things, there are still People of that time, that, as well as me, have seen the greatest part of them, and who can give me the lye, if I do not relate them according as they pass'd? I shall content my self with taking them to witness of the truth; and I willingly submit my self to their Censure.

THE

THE PUBLISHER TO THE READER.

SINCE the Novelty of the matter, and the Form of this ensuing History, do possibly require something to be said for its better Illustration, I shall a little stress upon thy Patience, Gracious Reader, by so modish a Transgression as that of a Preface. A man seldom arrives at a Delicate Entertainment without running the Gauntlet of a bundance of Formality; seldom gets to Court without standing

To the Reader.

standing the Brunt of continual Ceremony; nor to the Enjoyment of a Mistress without brushing through a Confounded deal of VVooing and Riffing: And yet without being an Epicure, Ambitious, or a Lover; if the Scene be new, whatever trouble it may have cost him, he finds his satisfaction. Now this is matter to urge for my Excuse in the present instance: For undoubtedly, hardly has there ever been such very considerable Occurrences and Revolutions in the VVorld as those here described, and yet with which we are less acquainted: Thus the Learned, as well as others, will have wherewithal to gratify their Curiosity, and augment their Knowledge: This is abundantly made out by the

Tran-

To the Reader.

Translator, in the Dissertation he had annex'd: But he going into *France* this Summer, and leaving his Copy with a Friend, that Friend handed it to the Press; and it was agreed it would make the Compleater Book, were the Dissertation adjoyn'd to the second and last Volume; though it proves the Truth of this History, by conferring it with the History of *Spain*, and several *Arabian*, *Turkish*, and *Persian* Manuscripts. His absence must at the same time Apologize for some, perchance, unpolish'd passages, which he would have refined had they pass'd his Review; which possibly, so far from being Blemishes, like Moles, rather heighten the Beauty.

To the Reader.

But bating such small slips, what can be of more importance, than an account both of one of the greatest and least known Heroes that was ever in the VVorld, as was that Famous *Arabian* Monarch *Almanzor*; who after having taken *Damascus*, and Conquer'd the greatest part of *Persia*, and the *Indies*, render'd himself Master of all *Africa* that was known at that time; and whose Generals, having reduc'd *Spain* in subjection to him, could hardly curb themselves from passing the *Pyrenees*, and undertaking the Conquest of *France*, before they had received orders from their Master for that purpose. Yet do not our Historians so much as agree upon this mighty Princes Name, of the time when

To the Reader.

when he Reigned, nor of the Year when the *Moors* pass'd the Streight.

But the Principal cause of our little acquaintance with this, and other the Histories of the *Eastern* Princes, is the Ignorance of the *Arabick*, *Persian*, *Turkish*, and *Mauritanick* Languages, which hinders us from being so Critical as to know the good, from bad Books, written in those Tongues; and the difficulty there is, not only in understanding them aright, but in reading them also aright; in-somuch, that after many Years Study, few People but do at length desist.

VVherefore we must needs own our selves the more indebted to *Michael de Luna*, for having taken the pains to Translate

To the Reader.

state *Abulcacim's* **W**orks into *Spanish*; since this single History may stand in Competition with all those of the *Greeks* and *Romans*. And indeed, the Circumstances of the Conquest of *Spain* by the *Moors*, in the Year 712 of our Lord, are so curious, and the Life of the *Caliph Almanzor*, under whom this great Event happen'd, so fine, that *Abulcacim Abentari*, who accompany'd *Tariff* and *Muca* throughout that whole Expedition, may be said to Challenge more Credit than *Arrian*, who only writ after the Memoires of *Ptolomy* and *Aristobulus*, who attended *Alexander* in his; and that he has all the Qualifications necessary to merit the Character of the most perfect of Historians.

Now

To the Reader.

Now to shew the Authentickness of the *Arabick* Original, and the *Spanish* Version, many of the most Eminent *Spanish* Authors, as *Pedrasa*, *Rodrigo Caro*, *Bleda*, and others, Quote and Commend *Abulcacim Tariff*, as an Author the most worthy of Credit they knew: And as for *Michael de Luna*, his Translator, as he was a Citizen of *Grenada*, whence the *Moors* had not been long driven, he could know by Tradition many things that had relation to this History: And in all probability having been chosen by *Philip* the Second, to be Interpreter of the *Arabick* Tongue; and having doubtless had a great part in the Scrutiny made after *Arabick* Books, that compos'd the greatest part of the *Escorial* Library,

a 3

To the Reader.

brary, he must have seen and examin'd all those that speak of the same subject; and that he would not have chosen it to have given it to the Publick, if he had not judg'd it more worthy of it than all the rest.

VVe shall not descend to justify this History particularly, referring that to the *Dissertation* in the second Volume; wherein it is compar'd, and put to the Test with the most Authentick *Oriental* Manuscripts. Besides, we have been but too rude already, in detaining thee so long, when the Entrance is so alluring. History is the Mistress of all Mankind; a Mistress that Refines and Diverts the Ingenious, new Polishes the gross and uncouth, and has Reformed me; and so, out of Gratitude, my Darling.

To the Reader.

Darling. But through an over-great Publick Spirit, I could no longer deny the *English* VVorld the Possession of so Ravishing a Mistress; and so have ground to hope that this piece of Generosity will meet with such a due Acceptance, as may quicken me to hasten out the next, and indeed more entertaining Volume. And so Farewel.

A

A
T A B L E
Of the Chapters contain-
ed in the First Part.

P A R T I.

*Containing the Life of Don Ro-
drigo, King of Spain. The
Conquest of that Kingdom un-
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PART I.

Containing the Life of Don Rodrigo, King of Spain. The Conquest of that Kingdom under the Caliph Valid Almanzor: And the Wars which his Death occasion'd in Africa, in Europe and Asia, between his Children and his Generals.

Luna and all the Spanish Authors put Mira mamolin, instead of Emir el mumein, Prince of Believers. Almanzor signifies August, Victorious. Caliphe, Vicar, Successor.

CHAP.

CHAP. I.

Anagilda, King Acofta's Widdow, withdraws, with the Prince her Son, to Cordoua: Rodrigo invites her to bring him back to Court to assist at a Festival. She goes thither, and departs thence forthwith.

IN the Year 91 of the *Hegira*, Spain was govern'd by a King call'd *Rodrigo*, of the Race of the *Goths*; a People that came into that Country from the farthest parts of the North, and who made profession of the *Christian Religion*. This Kingdom did then enjoy a profound Peace, and was as much under his subjection, as *Arabia* could be formerly to the Great *Almanzor*, our Sovereign Lord. Inasmuch that this unhappy Prince (for we may well term him so) had the freedom to abandon himself to all the Vices, whereof Idleness is commonly the source.

Hegira signifies Series, from whence the Arabs begin to reckon their years. The year 91 of the Hegira falls in with the year 712 of our Lord.

B

What

The Conquest of Spain

What curb'd him, was the young Prince *Don Sancho*, Son to the late King *Acosta*, his Eldest Brother; to whom by consequence * the Crown was devolved after his Death, and which had been only conferr'd upon him until the Majority of his Nephew. But he was loath to resign so precious a Pledge, and his thoughts were wholly taken up in contriving the means to appropriate the whole Authority to himself; which to him did not seem sufficiently Charming, as long as it was only borrow'd.

The more his Nephew became fortify'd in Body and Mind, the more this unnatural Uncle became peevish and uneasy. The Affection which all the Grandees bore him, much before the time giving him a * Jealousie, which he had much ado to dissemble.

Queen *Anagilda* having sooner than any other, perceiv'd the ill will he bore her Son, seldom suffer'd him out of her sight, and only plac'd such persons about him, as of whose fidelity she was well assur'd. But, in short, the Affection she had for *Don Sancho* making her shrift into all *Rodrigo's* pernicious Designs, and to foresee the storm that was

* *Har Mal-mucg*, Royal Scepter.

* *Aldahir*, to shew another thing outwardly.

by the Moors.

was suddenly like to come pouring upon her Head; she ask'd *Rodrigo's* Permission to leave *Toledo*, the usual Abode of the Kings of *Castille*, to retire to a City in *Andaloufia*, called *Cordoua*, whither she took along her Son, and all her Household. This Resolution, which *Rodrigo* durst not thwart, made him harbour new and stronger Distrusts: He every moment fancy'd that his Nephew had attain'd to his years of Majority; that the Scepter was to be put into his Hands, and of an absolute King as he was, become his Subjects * Pupil: And looking on this fall as a thing worse than Death, he found no better means to screen himself from it, than to dispatch as soon as possible *Don Sancho* out of the World.

To bring this Design the more easily and secretly about, he caus'd a Turnament to be proclaim'd at *Toledo*; where several days were wholly spent in the Preparations for so great an Entertainment: And as all People were invited to be there on the day it was to begin, he sent a Courier on purpose to *Cordoua*, earnestly to entreat Queen *Anagilda* to Honour it with her Presence,

B 2

and

* *Alcahir*, submitted, subjected.

The Conquest of Spain

and with that of the Prince her Son. This Princess ever labouring under the apprehensions of some Treachery, at first wav'd with Excuses the undertaking of this Journey; but at last, being prei'd by the Messengers that were sent upon the heels of one another, she consulted those in whom she thought she might confide: They all agreed, That the Diffidence she harbour'd of her Brother-in-Law was well grounded, but that it became her not to suffer it to be perceiv'd: That *Rodrigo* wou'd easily guess the Reason why the Prince went not to Court, and so might be urg'd to Extremities, for which they ought not to give him any occasion.

Immediately after, Orders being given for the Departure, and the rumours thereof being spread about *Andaloufia*, several Persons of Quality came to ask the Queen leave to attend her; and she being willing to be accompany'd by the most People she could, with joy accepted their offers. Thus did she repair with a very numerous, brisk and stately Train into the Province of *Castille*; at her arrival at *Toledo*, she was there received with all the Honours due to her, and found the Court extraordinary full. She

by the Moors.

She was lodg'd, with all her Train, in a Stately Palace, wherein she had hardly remain'd the time necessary to recreate herself after the fatigue of so great a March, but that the day appointed for the solemnity of that Festival being come, she was conducted in Ceremony, upon * a Scaffold erected, and spread with Tapestries magnificently, in a place where the Prince *D. Sancho* sat in the middle, having the King his Uncle on his Right Hand, and the Queen his Mother on his Left.

* *Manlech*,
a Scaffold.

As soon as this Entertainment was over, (it having been perform'd with much Joy and Magnificence) notwithstanding the earnest entreaties and instances made by the King *D. Rodrigo*, to oblige *Anagilda* to stay some days to divert herself in his Court, she remain'd fix'd in the Resolution she had taken; and alledging the best Reasons she could bethink herself of, she took her leave of him, and return'd in all haste to *Cordoua*, with her Son, and all the Company she had brought along.

Rodrigo being extremely vext, that so sudden a departure had robb'd him of the means of executing his perverie Intentions, and touch'd to the quick,

* *Albammen*, the Common People, the Commons.

that in the Journey *Don Sancho* had taken to *Toledo* the *Grande*s of the Court, the Governours of Places, the Prelats, and the People * had treated him in his own Presence, as their real King; he knew not what course to take to render himself the sole Master of *Spain*: He roll'd a thousand things in his mind, but paus'd not upon one without finding a thousand Difficulties in't, and out of which he could, with any likelihood, promise himself a good issue. At last he resolv'd upon what we shall see in the following Chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Rodrigo causes the Prince Don Sancho to be taken into Custody. His Mother frees him out of Prison, and goes with him into Africa.

Rodrigo, after having miss'd of so fair an occasion to rid himself of his Nephew, was too much dejected for to be able to resolve on any thing in himself. But it was not sufficient to find out expedients, there needed such People as were capable of making use of them. *Astolpho* was the man of all the Court in whom he had the most Confidence; wherefore upon him did he unburden himself of a * Secret, that *Amr*, the lay so much the heavier upon him, as *Care*, the that he meant to have kept it to himself; and offer'd him at the same time all the Gold and Money that was in his Power, and the Governments of the most considerable Places of his Kingdom,

dom, if he could help him to bring about his design.

Astolpho wanting neither Industry nor Malice, advis'd him to practice false Witnesses, that might charge *Don Sancho* with some great Crime: Representing to him, That when he should cause him to be confin'd under the colour of Justice, no body could find fault therewith; and that during the Prince's Imprisonment, it would be easie for him, either to put him to death, or to render himself in such manner Master of the Kingdom, that it would be impossible to divest him of its Administration.

The King very much relishing this Contrivance, was not long without causing *D. Sancho's* Process to be made; who by the Informations, was found charg'd with Crimes as black and notorious, as needed to authorize the clapping him up into Prison.

Astolpho having receiv'd the Commission for this purpose, departed from *Toledo*, without the least suspicion being had of the occasion of his Journey, and reaching *Cordoua* before it could in the least get Wind, he entred the Prince's Chamber, whom he found sleep-

sleeping, in perfect security from any such like Treason; and passing with all expedition across the City, that dreamt not in the least how matters went, he carry'd him through the Mountains making the Desert, that separate *Castille* from *Andaloufia*, into a little Town that may be seen from *Cordoua*, from which it is not far distant; and is call'd *The Tower of Stone.*

The Tower of Stone
in Sierra

The Queen, amaz'd at so unexpected a Blow, was for some while without knowing what to resolve on; but as she had more Courage than her Sex does usually afford, and quickly suspected how the case stood, she resolv'd at any rate to free her Son out of so great a Danger. Infomuch, that having caus'd five and twenty of the bravest men of her household to take Horse and Arms, as well as five and thirty others, whom she order'd to follow her on foot. She herself went with this small Troop after those that carry'd away her Son, whom she overtook in that Tower, I have newly mention'd.

Merena,
Land or Mountain,
brown,
black.

At first *Astolpho* meant to have stood upon his Defence, but having vigorously attack'd him, and kill'd all his Men, she her-

herself took him Prisoner, and brought her Son back to *Cordoua*.

She at first design'd to have fortify'd herself in that Town, and to have provided it with all things necessary, but fearing *Rodrigo* might come to besiege her there, she packed up all she had most precious, and having assembled her most trusty Servants, she withdrew to the most Western part of *Spain*, into a place called the *Algefires*, belonging to Count *Julian*; the same that a little while after occasion'd the loss of *Spain*. Not finding herself even there in sufficient security, she thought the best course wou'd be to put the Sea between her and *D. Rodrigo*, and go seek in a foreign Country for succours to conquer her own. This Resolution *being taken, she caus'd *Astolpho's* Nose and Ears to be cut off, as a Traytor to his King; and pass'd the Streight, after having sent him back to the King her Brother-in-Law, with a Letter, which, Translated out of *Spanish* into *Arabick*, is as follows.

* *Ascald*,
Design,
Resoluti-
on.

The

The Letter of Queen *Anagilda*,
the Prince *Don Sancho's* Mo-
ther, to the King *D. Rodrigo*.

This Letter was found in King *D. Rodrigo's* Cabinet at *Cordoua*, and as it was translated out of *Spanish* into *Arabick*, by *Abentariq*, was again put into the tongue out of which it was originally turn'd.

*The Unhappy Anagilda, to the
Traytor, D. Rodrigo.*

*Health to him that does not
deserve it.*

THy Natural Malignity, and the desire thou hast, at any rate, to Reign, must needs have plung'd thee into a strange Blindness, for to render thee so unjust as to go about to practise false Witenesses against an Innocent; so perfidious as to fail in thy Loyalty to thy Lord; so unnatural as to rob thy Nephew of his Life.

All the Laws of Knighthood, as well as those of humanity, do not suffer the revenging one's self on those that have meant us the most mischiefs, as soon as they can no longer do us any: Nay, and Generosity requires that we pardon them, tho they have done us hurt; but the least of these Vertues

Vertues is too great for thee: Thou wilt not so much as know what these same Duties are, and dost not mind the praises that are gain'd by fine Actions; since that instead of being for the Truth, which is the friend of God, thou makest it thy whole business to stifle it, and to declare thy self against it; vowing the ruine of him that never had the least thought to offend thee; and who, on the contrary, has had so much confidence in thee, that he put himself under thy Protection.

Thou wouldst do much better to make War upon thy Enemies, and conquer some one of their Provinces, than to attack a Woman and a Child; wherein thou hast not any Honour to acquire; and wherein thou canst not miss of ruining it in this World, to lose after that thy Soul in the other. Learn to harbour no longer such * empty and such Criminal Designs; and think of leading no longer such a disorderly Life as that thou ledest; while that God, who only requires the * Conversion of the Sinner, may still grant thee Mercy.

Dost thou think that thy Reign will last always? Dost thou not know that only that of God hath no end? That all the Kings of the Earth are but Dust; that

* Hiaan,
bad Design.

* Taube,
Penitence,
Change.

they must one day become Dust again; and that when after thy Death, thou shalt appear before his Tribunal, thou wilt only carry along with thee thither, the Good and Evil thou hast done in this Life.

I Challenge thee in his Name, and summons thee to restore the Crown to whom it belongs, and to rest satisfy'd with thy Condition. If thou dost not do it, assure thy self, that though I am a Woman, and weak by Consequence, Truth shall strengthen me, and make me triumph, with the help of God, over all thy Artifices *; that * *Algadr*, will all vanish into smoke: The Innocence Treason of my Son, as well as my own, will be Chains of Iron, which all thy efforts can never break; and the Calumny and Treason wherein thou wouldst involve us, will last no longer than threads of rotten Flax: whereas the justice of my Cause being firm and stable as Marble, will appear in the Eyes of all the World, as clear and as pure as Cristal. It is easie for thee to judge of the little reason thou hast, by the little help Heaven gives thee. Thou sendest to take an Innocent with a Troop of Guards, as if he had been a Malefactor: God has broke those bonds; and if thou doubtst it, thou needest only to see the Nose and Ears of him, to whom thou gavest

gavest thy Commission for that purpose, who will inform thee whether thou or we have the best Right. I will put an end to my Letter; but take this along, That I am not at all resolv'd to put an end to either my Cares, or my Endeavours against thee; from which, on the contrary, I will never desist, till such time as that I am fully Reveng'd.

From the *Algesires*, on the 23 day of January, in the year 750 of the
 * *era of Cæsar.*

* The *era* of Cæsar, from whence the *Spaniards* began to reckon their years is thirty eight years before our Lord.

The Superscription of the Pacquet was to *D. Rodrigo, the Tyrant and Usurper of D. Sancho his Nephews Kingdom.*

Rodrigo in the mean while, thinking he had taken his measures aright, flatter'd himself with the hopes of suddenly seeing that Prisoner arrive, whom he had so great a longing to rid himself of; but strangely was he surpriz'd, when he saw his dear *Astolpho* come all disfigur'd as he was, disclaiming against, and cursing his ill fortune. He was much more so, when having ask'd him, Who had put him into that condition?

condition? He acquainted him how that having taken *Don Sancho*, and bringing him along towards *Toledo*, the Queen his Mother issued out of *Cordoua*, with abundance of Horse and Foot, and had us'd such expedition, that she had overtaken him on the way, had cut all his Party to pieces, whatever resistance he had been able to make, to endeavour to hinder her from rescuing his Prisoner from him; and that she would, doubtless, have put him to Death as well as the rest, had she not thought fit to reserve him to carry him this Letter; which he did not expect would be over welcome. The King, after having taken it, ask'd what was become of *Anagilda* and her Son? And he having reply'd, That they had taken Shipping for *Africa*, he was so sorely griev'd, that his Affliction had like to have made him run mad. He went and shut himself up in his Closet, that he might so with the more freedom give a loose to the vexation he had for the unhappy event of his Enterprize. He could not then forbear opening the Queens Letter; and as Truth has great force, he felt in that moment some Repentance for what

* *Fagr*,
Mind,
thought.

what he had done. But Ambition being the ruling Passion of his Soul*, the remorse of his Conscience did not trouble him so much, as the fear he had lest *Anagilda* should go demand succours of the *Moors* against him. This made him send in all haste for Count *Julian*, to whom belong'd the Castle of the *Algesires*, where she had resided for some time before she went into *Africa*, that he might by him discover the intention of her Journey into those parts. This Count being come to Court, and having assured the King, that she went away with a Resolution to prevail with the *Moors* to wage War upon him, he resolv'd to send this Count into *Africa*, to endeavour to divert this Storm; and to procure the better welcome for his Letters to *Muca*, who was then Vice-roy for the *Caliph Valid-Almanzor*, he accompany'd them with a world of Presents*, and made him the offer of entering into a Treaty of Alliance with his Master. *Anagilda* in the mean while falling sick, through Grief rather than fatigue, was oblig'd to stay for some time at a City of *Africa* call'd *Tangier*; by which means Count *Julian* had seen the Vice-roy,
and

* *Hadda-*
via, or ra-
ther *Had-*
da, Pre-
sents.

and presented him with the Jewels sent him by *Rodrigo*, before he had heard talk of her. *Muca* receiv'd him with much Honour; and after having treated him several times in a House he had caus'd to be prepar'd for that purpose, he made him answer, That he could not of his own head resolve upon any thing of what *Rodrigo* required; but that if he would stay some time, he would write to the *Caliph Almanzor*, who would, undoubtedly, receive in due manner the advances of so great a King; and would do all that should be most fitting, and most suitable for both.

During these Transactions, *Rodrigo* receiv'd Tydings, that *Anagilda* and *D. Sancho* were both dead at *Tangier*; which inspir'd him with mighty Joy, seeing himself at the point he had so long wish'd to be at; and believing he had now nothing more at all to fear. He nevertheless imagin'd that the Amity of the *Moors* might be of some use to him: For which reason, he wrote to Count *Julian*, that notwithstanding the Prince's Death, he should nevertheless remain in *Africa*, to wait the event of his Embassy.

C

After

After having taken these Precautions for abroad, his thoughts were now only bent how to secure all things at home, where were still some Princes that might dispute the Crown with him. He caus'd the States to be held at *Toledo*, where, *D. Sancho's* Death being made known, he caus'd an Oath of Allegiance to be taken to him by all the Grandees there assembled, as *Don Sancho's* Lawful Successor to the Crown. He had likewise his Coronation perform'd in great Ceremony, and with all the rejoycing that is wont to be us'd in such like solemnities. But in the midst of all this Joy, could not he refrain from labouring under some Disquiet; and to free himself wholly from it, and to put himself into a posture that he should not need to dread any thing from any of the Grandees, or any of his Subjects, the only People he imagin'd he needed to fear; having learnt the good success of the *African* Negotiation; he bethought himself of expedients, whereof mention shall be made in the following Chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Rodrigo causes most of the Fortresses of his Kingdom to be dismantled; and commits several Violences, that make him incur the anger of God.

IT is very true, and Men have daily but too much Experience of it) that having once believ'd Fortune * *Albair,* propitious, we ought not to expect that *Fortune,* it will so long continue: On the contrary, as it has not any stability; and *felicity,* that it is inconstancy it self; the more *perhaps* it smiles upon us, the more ought we *Deberz,* to distrust it; and often expect that *whiteness.* she delights to invite us, by small baits and allurements, to run after her, to abandon us afterwards, when we shall stand most in need of her succours.

Of this there can be no greater, nor a more illustrious Example found than *Rodrigo*: For after having render'd him absolute Master of all *Spain*, and procur'd

* *Alb-
fram*, loss,
destructi-
on, from
the Root.
Seram ren-
ders it mi-
serable.

cur'd him to be Crown'd King thereof; she took a pleasure in * despoiling him in a short time, of all she had conferr'd on him, and tumbled him from his Throne, by the same means he pretended to make use of to defend himself on it.

Such of his Subjects as he most distrust'd (for he had no longer any Apprehension from Strangers) were some Grandees, and Governours of the Places of *Andaloufia*, and of *Castile*, who had been of *D. Sancho's* Party. Wherefore he began to make sure of their Persons; and after having put them to Death, he caus'd not only their Castles to be raz'd, but most of the strong Places of *Spain*; reserving to himself only such as seem'd to him most necessary for his own security; wherein he put such men as were wholly at his Devotion. He did not think this sufficient; He caus'd Proclamation to be made through all his Territories, That not any of his Subjects henceforwards should have the boldness to bear any sort of Arms, nor to keep any in his House; and that all People should bring them into his Palace, upon pain of Death; imagining that after the People had thus laid aside

the

the Exercise * of War, and should only addict themselves to Agriculture, his Government would be much more absolute, and much more quiet. * *Albiad.*

But the poor Prince was much mistaken, for not being then curb'd by any fear, he abandon'd himself to all manner of Irregularities and Dissolutions, according as I have been told by *Spanish* Bishops, and other persons worthy of Credit, of whom I made enquiry, during my abode in that Country: So far as that he made no difficulty to put the worthiest persons of all his Kingdom to Death, that he might have his Pleasure with their Wives and Daughters. So loose a Life occasion'd an Universal Disorder: For as Kings are look'd upon by their Subjects as the Models by which they ought to square all their Actions; and that, indeed, they seldom fail to imitate their Virtues, and still more their Vices: The bad Example of this Prince pass'd on to the People, who would needs equal him in Wickedness and Libertinism; insomuch that we need not wonder at the punishment God inflict'd upon them.

Rodrigo being still young, either out of the desire of perpetuating himself,

C 3

which

* *Haigya*,
what has
Life: from
thence
comes the
name of
Eve.

which Nature inspires into all Animals*; or from that of having lawful Children that might succeed him, which is a sentiment peculiar to Men; he had a great desire to Marry, but he could not find out a fitting Match.

* The Spaniards call her *Eliana*.

At that time was there in the Eastern part of *Africa* a King call'd *Mahomet Abhehedin*, who had but one Daughter, of an extraordinary Beauty, call'd * *Zabra Abnaliaca*: This young Princess walking one Evening upon the Sea-shore, with her Maids, and some of her Fathers Servants, it seem'd to her so Calm and Charming, that the fancy took her to go on board a Ship, so to divert herself upon the Water. Her Attendants, without making over much Reflection upon what they did, did not divert her from the Design. The Marriners made ready the Ship, all her Company were eager to go with her on board, and in the merry pin they all were; they did not mind that they distanc'd themselves a little too far from the Land, whither they did not trouble their Heads about returning, while it was in their Power. In the mean while the Wind changing all on the sudden,

sudden, the Storm became so great, that being unable to put into any Port of *Africa*, they were constrain'd to abandon themselves to the open Sea; and were at length drove upon the Coasts of *Spain*, in a place call'd * *Alcapa* by the *Arabians*, which in that Tongue signifies a Place of ill luck; and by the *Spaniards*, *Cabodegata*; where they were all taken, and made Slaves by the *Christians* of that Place. It was easie to see by their Cloaths and Equipage, that they were Persons of great Quality; insomuch that whatever Care the *Moors* took to conceal that of the *Infanta*, she was known at length, and brought, with all her Train, to *Rodrigo*; who being inform'd of it, gave order that she should be handsomely received, and treated in all Places.

* *Alcapa*,
Place of
ill luck.

* *Hufan*,
disguise,
dissemble.

He was well made and Gallant, the Princess was Young and Beautiful; insomuch that Love easily engag'd them, and quickly augmented by the Entertainments he made her, and by the soft Conversations they ever had together. The thing came at length so far, that the King having offer'd to Marry, and place the Crown of *Spain* upon her

Head, provided she would turn *Christian*; she, without much trouble, resolv'd to do so. The Nuptials were perform'd with great rejoycing and solemnity. The Men and Women of her Retinue that were minded to be converted, and stay with their Mistress, had considerable Settlements in *Spain*; and those that could not be perswaded to that, return'd into *Africa*, whither they brought this News. *Mahmet* being very uneasie for his Daughter, was so surpriz'd to hear that she had abjur'd his Faith, that he dy'd of Grief; and by his Death left the Crown to *Avilgualid*; who, as his nearest Relation, succeeded him in his Kingdom. We shall see in the series of this History the unhappy issue of this Marriage, as well as the Amours of this Prince with *Florinda*.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Rodrigo falls in love with Florinda, call'd La Caux by the Arabs. She signifies to Count Julian, her Father, then in Africa, the violence done her by this Prince.

THO *Rodrigo* was marry'd, he led the same life he did before he was so: He nevertheless fell in Love with one of the most beautiful Ladies of his Court, call'd *Florinda*, Count *Julian's* Daughter; who was at that time in his *African* Embassy. She had Wit enough to perceive that the Kings Courtship did not at all tend to her own Honour, nor to that of her Family, since that it, doubtless, only aim'd at Ravishing her of it; and she had Virtue enough to receive his fondnesses with much indifference and Modesty; but the more firmness she exerted,

ed, with the more obstinacy did he persevere to overcome it.

Now for the more easie effecting of this his purpose, he made several new Regulations in his Court: Among other things, he order'd that when he should eat with his Queen, none but the Ladies of the Palace should serve at Table, and requir'd them to be dress'd finer than ordinary on such days. This being thus establish'd, one day after Supper, whereat *Florinda* had serv'd with others, he so order'd matters, that he caus'd her to enter a Room void of all other Company, and following her thither, whatever resistance and screams she was able to make, he gain'd of her, at length, by force, what she never would have granted him.

Being under the utmost Despondency at such an Outrage, and not knowing how either to be Reveng'd or Comforted, she resolv'd to make her Case known to her Father. In short, after having contriv'd the most mysterious terms she could bethink herself of, that they might only be understood by him, she made use of those of this Letter; which, Translated out of Spanish into Arabick, is as follows.

Flo-

Florinda's Letter to Count Julian, her Father.

THe regret I have for the absence of a Father so dear to me as you must needs be, makes me in Writing to you, seek the Consolation I cannot find, of seeing you. Not that I mean to send you all the News of the Palace*, that ever affords sufficient that deserves your knowledge; this is only to acquaint you with one, which, though it be already old in this Court, will ever be new for such a Maid as I; and will ever appear in the Eyes of the whole World very strange, for such a great Prince as Rodrigo. You must know then, my dear Father, that I had heedlessly, left upon a Table the Ring I send you in this Letter; and was not so careful to lock up close this precious Jewel, which I esteem'd more than my Life, and which you and my Mother had so earnestly recommended to me: But the King having a desire to it, impetuously threw himself to take it; and seeing I would not give it him, he drew his Sword*, and gave it * *Hucan*
so many hacks, that whatever screams and *Almuque,*
strugglings I us'd to hinder him, he has, *Coutelas,*
Royal.

as

as you see, cloven it in two, both the Ring and Emerald enchas'd in it. So vexatious and so unexpected an accident plunges me into so much confusion, that I cannot explain it further; and makes me conjure you to remedy it, if possible; for to you only can I have recourse in this matter. My Mother is very ill, and I still worse. I pray God to preserve you.

* This Epoch is thirty eight years, or thereabouts, before the Birth of our Lord. * *ahim*, Wife.

From Toledo, the 3 of December, in the Year * 750 of the æra of Cæsar.

Count Julian being wife * and prudent, having receiv'd this Letter, presently understood his Daughters meaning; and was so concern'd, that, without staying one moment in Africa, he took leave of *Muca*, and return'd with all expedition to the *Algesires*. He staid in his House only the time necessary to give his Wife order to feign her being sick of grief, for his and her Daughter's absence, and went directly to Court; where he made no semblance of knowing the least of what had been signify'd to him in the Letter; but giving the King an account of his Negotiation, and of the state he had left all things

things in in Africa, he represented them to him in such manner, as made him comprehend that it was necessary for him to return forthwith thither. The King, after having given him his Expeditions as soon as he desired them, was very much surpriz'd, when at his taking his leave of him, the Count ask'd his permission to carry his Daughter to the *Algesires*, to stay some time there with her Mother, who was very ill, and mighty desirous to see her. But though this went very much against the grain, he could not handsomely refuse him his Request. And thus the Count went with her to the *Algesires*, where he made some days abode. In the following Chapter we shall see the Resolution he took in this place.

CHAP. V.

Count Julian being thoroughly inform'd of the outrage done to his Daughter, resolv'd to be Reveng'd, and to deliver Spain to the Moors.

AS soon as the Count was got to his own home, he made *Florinda* relate more precisely, and more particularly what she had written to him in obscure terms; and when he was fully certain of the shame of his Family, and in such sort as was past all doubt, then was his Grief so much the more sensible, in that he saw that the person that had done him so great an outrage, was his Lord and King, from whom he seem'd to be under an obligation of enduring all, and that it was impossible for him to wreak his Revenge.

Wherefore not knowing what to do in this Distress, and not minded, without mature deliberation, to abandon him-

himself to all that his Passion might suggest, he, with all possible secrecy, assembled his Relations and Friends, who interesting themselves in the affront *Rodrigo* had put upon the Count, and animating one another to Revenge, after having found that they were not strong enough to assert their Resentments, unless back'd by a foreign Power, they unanimously resolv'd that the Count should return into *Africa* to treat with *Muca*; and that they on their parts should abide in their Houses, waiting the success of his Voyage. After having all embrac'd one another, and engag'd to keep this Enterprize very secret, the Count took Shipping, with his Wife and Daughter, and whatever he had of value, which he carry'd along with him into *Africa*. He was very kindly receiv'd by the Viceroy, with whom he had struck up a particular friendship in his Embassy; and told him immediately, That he was come to him, not on the behalf of the King of *Spain* as the time before, but on his own account, to offer him to deliver up all that great Kingdom to the *Caliph Almanzor*; and that if he could prevail with him to favour the Party he

*Vid. the
Note in
the Mar-
gin of the
Title, and
the Pre-
face.*

he had in Spain, he would furnish him with the means of quickly rendering himself Master of that Realm.

This Proposal was not displeasing to Muca; on the contrary, after mature examination, and long Conferences with the Count, he found what he said feasible; and propos'd to him to him to go himself to the Caliph, to unfold to him more particularly the means he had to effect so great an Enterprize; and for that purpose gave him the following Letter of Credence.

A LETTER.

*Praised be God, our Sovereign
Lord, the Creator of all things.*

TO the most High, most Noble, most Illustrious Emperour of all the Arabian Nation, and Defender of the Law of God, Valid Almanzor; to whom God Almighty grant Peace, and all manner of good fortune, as well as to all his Subjects, and augmentation of Glory and Dominions; as is wish'd him by
his

his faithful Servant Muca, under his Authority, and under the Protection of the Almighty God (to whom alone is due Prayer and Sacrifice) Governour of the Dominions of Africa: Who writes to you, Sir, to assure you, as his Charge obliges him, of the * Tranquility which your Subjects of these Provinces do enjoy; and then about an affair, which will be told you by the Bearer of my Letter, who is a Christian, and a Spaniard by Nation; but who, nevertheless, shews much zeal for your Prosperity, and the augmentation of your Empire: He is call'd the Count D. Julian, and thinks himself very much offended by an outrage done him by the King of Spain, D. Rodrigo, who is the nearest Neighbour you have in the North; and I have found him true and upright in all he told me, insomuch that you may have credence in him; and, I believe, that if you would grant him the succours he requires, there will be no great danger, nor great trouble to try if all he says be true; on the contrary, with the help of God, this may produce a great good, and contribute to the encrease of your Kingdoms; as we all desire that are your faithful Servants.

* Albana,
Peace.
Hana, Re-
pose, Con-
veniencey.

D

From

This Date
jumps
with the
month of
December,
in the year
712 of our
Lord.

From the Palace of *Morocco*, the 3
of the month *Dulhises*, in the year
91 of the *Hegira*.

Count *Julian* going on board a *Felucca* he had caus'd to be fitted out on purpose; and in a short time being arriv'd in *Arabia*, where *Valid* had then his Residence; he presented himself to him, and gave him *Muca's* Letter of Credence. This Prince caus'd his Council to assemble, to examine a Proposal of such great consequence. The Count was there heard with great attention: He had a thousand Difficulties put to him, which, as he was a shrewd man, and understood * War as well as any Captain of his time, he found it no hard matter to answer: He had a thousand Questions ask'd him; all which he neatly solv'd. Insomuch that *Almanzor* being very much satisfy'd, it was resolv'd on in his Council, That Orders should be sent to *Muca*, to favour the Count in all he should desire; and for that purpose he was dispatcht away back with all Expedition, with this Letter for the Vice-roy of *Africa*.

* The *Arabic*,
Harb, the
Spanish,
Ardid,
Military
Art, Stra-
tagems of
War.

A

A LETTER.

*Praised be God, our Sovereign
Lord.*

The Supreme Ruler of the *Arabs*,
Vicar of God, and Defender
of his Law, *Valid Almanzor*,

To the Noble, Accomplish'd, Virtu-
ous and Trusty Knight, *Muca*; Go-
vernour of our Kingdoms of *Africa*;
Greeting.

THE Answer that is made to the
Letter of Credence, brought by the
Count D. Julian, is, That his Proposal
has been kindly receiv'd; and that he
has given very pertinent Reasons for it.
Wherefore it is convenient to attempt this
Enterprize, and to commit the Conduct
of it to some good Captain; who, with a
sufficient number of Horse and Foot,
should go to view the Country: Then you
shall give us a succinct account of the
event

D 2

event of his Voyage, and what you shall think convenient to be done, that we may give orders accordingly. In the mean while God take you into his keeping.

In the month of September, in the year 713 of our Lord.

From our Palace of *Carval*, in *Arabia felix*, on the 2 of the Moon of *Sabben*, in the 92 year of the *Hegira*.

The Count *D. Julian* having brought this Letter from *Almanzor* to *Muca*, it gave him great satisfaction: And in pursuance of the Emperours Orders, he made a small Body of six thousand Foot, and some few Horse, which he put under the command of a very brave man, call'd *Tariff Abenriet*, of the City of *Damus*; whom he enjoyn'd with Count *Julian* to pass the Streight, which the Spaniards call of *Hercules**, and which after this was call'd by this great Captain *Jubulfath*.

* Now call'd Gibraltar.

They had no sooner landed, and chosen a place fit for the Encampment of their Troops according as they came ashore, but that Count *Julian's* Relations and Friends came to join them, with a great number of their Vassals, whom they had caused to Revolt. *Tariff*

riff sent immediately to view the Country. His men entred very far into it without meeting with any Resistance; and after having kill'd all those they met, pillag'd and ravag'd not only the open Country, but also the Burroughs and Towns, they return'd loaded with Booty.

Tariff seeing things still more easie than he had imagin'd them, gave an immediate account accordingly to the Vice-roy; who signify'd to him, not to stay the longer for that in this Country, but to return speedily again into *Africa*, with all his Troops. He obey'd his Orders, though with some reluctancy, and went back into *Africa* with great Riches, and an infinite number of Slaves; carrying along with him all those, that having declared themselves for Count *Julian*, durst not stay any longer in *Spain*, but expected to return thither in a short time with greater Forces: As we shall see in the sequel of this History, they fail'd not of doing.

CHAP. VI.

Rodrigo enters a Cave that was at the Gates of Toledo, and thinking to find Treasures therein, finds only Presages of the loss of Spain.

THE King *Rodrigo* having had notice of the descent of the *Moors* into *Spain*, with Captain *Tariff*, and Count *Julian* his Enemy ; and that, after having over-run all *Andaloufia*, they were return'd with many Slaves; was not so anxious for what they had newly done, as for the apprehension of the long and dangerous War ; with which he saw himself threatned ; it being easie to judge that *Tariff* had not made that tryal, to stop there.

He knew Count *Julian* to be a Man of Wit and Execution, of Courage, and a through knowledge of War, a Natural *Spaniard*, that knew the state of his Affairs, knew the Country, had there many

many Adherents, nay, and Places, wherein he could enter and go out as often as he pleas'd. He easily perceiv'd, but too late, the fault he had committed, in losing, for a moments Pleasure, a man of such importance, and in giving him to his Enemies. He made reflexion upon the bad posture of his Kingdom, since he had disarm'd his Subjects, and caus'd all the strong Places to be demolisht. He considered that the long Peace which *Spain* had enjoy'd, was the occasion that he had no Disciplin'd Troops, and that when he had assembled an Army, they would be only raw men : All this plung'd him into furious Disquiets. He ask'd Counfel of all People, and found none good. At length, having consulted an Arch-bishop, a Relation of his, call'd *Torrife*, and having told him the little Money he had to raise and keep forces on foot ; this Arch-bishop perswaded him to break open a Place called the *Enchanted Tower*, where there was said to be a Treasure. And as this is a thing very extraordinary, I am willing to insert here at length what the same *Torrife* told me ; who shortly after quitted that Kings Party,

to come to Count *Julian* in our Camp ; and who could give the best account of it, as having been present when *D. Rodrigo* caus'd it to be open'd. Now this is what he then told me.

About a mile from *Toledo*, between steep Rocks that lye East of that great City, there was formerly a Tower, of a very ancient and very magnificent structure, tho a little endamag'd by Time, that consumes all: Under whose foundation was a very deep Cave, separated into four different Vaults, across a very narrow Entrance cut in the Rock, where a great Iron Door had been made up, with a thousand Locks, and as many Bolts: Upon this Door there was *Greek* Characters, that seem'd rather Cyphers than Letters, and might be diversely interpreted ; but whose meaning were, (as those pretended, who thought they knew them best) that the King that should open this Cave, and discover all the Wonders that were therein, would certainly find a great deal of Good and Evil.

Several Kings before this, had had a desire to shrist into the truth of this mystery, but whatever Orders they had given for that purpose, they had never

never been able to cause them to be executed. Upon the opening this Door, so great a Noise was heard, that the Earth seem'd to open at the same time under the feet of those that meant to enter therein: They were seiz'd with such a dread, that most of 'em fell sick upon't, some dy'd, and no body had the Courage to enter further. The Door had still been shut up more strongly than before, and People still believ'd that the time appointed for the breaking so great an Enchantment was not yet come ; but *Rodrigo's* ill fate would have it that this fatal adventure was reserved for him. He had chosen very resolute men to enter with him into that Cave ; but they had not gone very far, when the Torches they had being extinguish'd, the greater part fled away, out of a pannick fear which seiz'd them, of a terrible Hobgoblin they said they saw. The King in great anger caus'd other Flambeaux to be lighted which he had caus'd to be made on purpose, after a particular manner, that so the air of the Cave might not put them out: With this light he entred the first of all, and without shewing any fear, tho perhaps he was not exempt

exempt from a little; hardly had he gone some steps, but that he found himself in a beautiful Room, enrich'd with as delicate Sculptures as those we see in the greatest Palaces: In the midst of this great Room was a Brazen Statue, with a fierce posture, plac'd upon a Pillar three Cubits high, holding in its

* *Macmah.*

hand a * Battel-Axe, with which it struck the Earth from time to time, and so strongly, that there was reason to believe it to be partly the violent agitation it occasioned in the air, by the blows it gave, that made the great noise that was heard at their entrance.

Rodrigo, tho a little startled, did not however lose Courage; and began to conjure this Phantome; telling him, That he did not pretend to commit any Disorder in the place of his abode, and that he would go his ways as soon as he had seen all its Wonders.

He had no sooner uttered these words, but the Statue left off beating the Earth. The King and his Attendants being a little encourag'd, most carefully visited all the corners of that great Room. On the Left hand of the Statue they saw these words written on the Wall,

Unhappy

Unhappy Prince, thy ill Destiny hath brought thee hither. Turning to the Right, he found nothing better, for there was written, *Thou shalt be dispossess'd by foreign Nations, and thy Subjects shall be punish'd as well as thee, for all their Crimes.* Upon the back of the Statue was written these words in *Arabick*, *To my Succours:* and upon its Breast these, *I do my Duty.*

I forgot to say that at the entrance of this Room there was a kind of round Fat, like a Bowl; from whence there issued a kind of spout, whose surging made a hideous murmur.

After having well considered all these things, and caus'd the Inscriptions of them to be taken in a Table-book; the King went away very much disturb'd, and very peevish; and had no sooner turn'd his back, but that the Statue fell again to striking the ground, after its usual manner. The King caus'd this Cave to be shut up again more carefully than before, and had its entrance stopp'd with Earth, that so none thenceforward might enter therein, forbidding all his Attendants to make the least mention of this Adventure, by reason of the terrour that so ill a presage might

might put into all Peoples minds : But nevertheless it was immediately buzz'd about all the Court.

The Night following Crys were heard, that waywards, like to those that People make when they are fighting; and after a Clap, that made a mighty hurly burly, this old Tower funk; and all people were amazed the next day to find no more footsteps of it, than if all they had seen before had been only a Dream.

The King having assembled the Wise men of his Kingdom, to demand of them the Explication of all he had seen: They found that the Brazen Statue, with its perpetual motion, signified Time, that was oblig'd never to stop, as was noted by the Inscription it had upon its Breast. That that which was on the Back signified, that in the sequel of time, *Spain should be conquered by the Arabians*: That of the Walls presaged, *The loss of his Kingdom, and a great Calamity of all his People*: And that above the Door, *The great Evils the Conquered would suffer, and the great benefits the Victors would thence derive.*

Such

Such an Explication gave no little anxiety to *Rodrigo*, and to such of his People as heard it. They all lift up their Eyes to Heaven, well seeing that it was from God alone that they could hope for any succours. For tho they had news that *Tariff* and Count *Julian* were returned into *Africa*, this was not capable of re-assuring the King against so many intimations of the anger of Heaven. Whereupon he began to order the re-erecting all the Fortifications he had caus'd to be demolish'd; and had Proclamation made throughout his Kingdom, that the People should take up again the Arms he had forbidden, and exercise themselves therein, as before. He resolv'd also to quit *Toledo*, and go make his residence at *Cordona*; that so he might be nearer the place, from whence apparently all the mischief was to come, and thereto apply Remedies the more easily.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

Muca sends Tariff and Count Julian into Arabia, to give an account to Almanzor, of the success of the Voyage they had made into Spain.

Tariff Abenriet and Count Julian being returned into *Africa*, much satisfy'd with their Voyage, were there admirably well received by the Vice-roy; and after having among themselves concerted the means of effecting their Design, it was resolv'd, That this Captain and this Count should both go to *Almanzor's* Court, to communicate to him, and render him a faithful and an exact account of all they had done, and of the propitious Disposition wherein they had found the People of *Spain*: well perceiving it to be difficult by Letters to remove all the doubts*, and solve all the Difficulties that might be started upon an affair of

* *Hirifaf*,
Inconve-
niences.

so

so great a moment, as the Conquest of so great a Kingdom; and shew upon Paper, and at a distance, so great an Enterprize, so easily as those could do it by word of mouth, that had themselves considered things more nearly.

Whereupon having caused a Ship to be fitted out, and having provided themselves with all Necessaries*, as ** Sarra, Martial Men.* well for their Subsistence, as for their Safety; after having weather'd a furious Storm, they at length arriv'd happily in *Arabia*, where having presented themselves to *Almanzor*, he receiv'd them as well as they could wish, and had them lodg'd and treated with all their Train, and all the Souldiers they had brought along with them. *Tariff* in a few days after his arrival, had a long audience of *Almanzor*; in which, after having given him an account of all he had done for his service, he promis'd him, That if he would do him the honour to send him back into *Spain*, and rely upon him for the Conquest of so great a Country, he would subdue it in a little time to his Obedience. The Confidence with which this great Captain spoke, had so much power over *Almanzor's* mind, that he immediately

ly caus'd his Council to assemble, with it, still more particularly to examine all the Difficulties that might be met with in so great an Enterprize, and all the means he propos'd to bring it about. Whereupon, this affair having been agitated with mature deliberation, and accordingly reported to the Emperour, and debated anew again in his presence. At last the Conquest of *Spain* was resolv'd on, and the rumour of the Declaration of War against the King *Don Rodrigo* spread immediately throughout the whole extent of the *Caliph's* Empire. *Tariff*, who had already exerted his Valour, as well as his Conduct, in other occasions, wherein he had acquir'd *Almanzor's* esteem, and that of all the *Arabians*; knowing the Country better than any man, and having entred into strict Engagements with Count *Julian*, it would have been both injustice and imprudence to have taken from him the Command of the Army: For which reason he was at the same time nominated General, and these are the Letters Patents that were issued out to that intent.

Letters

Letters Patents.

Praise be to God alone, Amen.

THe Great and Warlike Valid Almanzor, of the high Lineage of Motaleb, Vicar of God, and the Defender of his Law; Son of the most High and most Noble Caliph, and potent Ruler of all the Arabick Nation, Abdulmeleck; to all those who shall these present Letters see, Greeting. We, for certain considerations and just causes us thereunto moving, having Ordered, as We Order by these presents, the Conquest of the Western Kingdoms, that are possess'd by the King, Don Rodrigo, a Christian by Profession, our Capital Enemy; by reason of the great profit which will redound thence to our Subjects, and the augmentation which will thence accrue to our Empire. We have resolved to nominate and chuse, as We chuse and nominate by these presents, for Governour and Captain General in all those Countrys, the Noble, the Virtuous, Honoured and Renowned Captain, our Vassal, and Faithful Servant, *Tariff Abenriet*;
E. whom

whom for this purpose We empower to go with the Troops We shall cause to be given him, into the Territories of Spain, and there execute the Orders that we shall cause to be expedited to him, and do all that to him shall seem fitting, for the accomplishment of our Will, without his needing to stay for new Orders from Us, on that account. We enjoin all Governours of Places, Officers and Souldiers, as well those he shall lead into his Army, as those of all our Realms, that they obey him, and execute his Commands, as well by Sea as by Land, as if they were issued out immediately from us, and Sealed with our own Seal, and Sign'd by our own Hand: Giving him for this purpose, Power and Authority sufficient to give them, and expedite them, under the penalties he shall please to establish; and which he may cause to be Executed, as Sovereign Judge, upon the Persons and Estates of those as shall Countervene them, and shall be Rebels to our Commands, which We have encharg'd him to accomplish and execute, in the entire Confidence we have in him: For such is our Pleasure.

The year
713 of our
Lord, in
the month
of Decem-
ber.

Given in our High Presence, in our Palace Royal of *Carval*, in *Arabia Felix*, in the 22 of the Moon *Dulchisa*, in the year 92. Al-

Almanzor had still another Captain, a Greek and *Renegado*, called *Hiza Humani*, in whose Valour he had much Confidence: He gave him the Command of the Troops he caused to be rais'd in the East, of which he quickly made a Body of thirty thousand good Men, and well Armed. At the same time he fitted out a great number of Ships, wherein he put not only all sorts of Ammunition, but a great abundance of Arms, Tools and Instruments of War. And as soon as this Fleet was ready, he Shipp'd all the Forces, and caus'd it to depart * on the thirteenth * of the Moon of *Inmod*, and the second day of the year 93.

* In the
year 714
of our
Lord, in
the month
of June.

This Prince, not content with these great preparations, imagin'd that as it was a War of Religion he was going to undertake, it was convenient to assemble all the *Mahometan* Forces. For which reason he dispatch'd a Manaway on purpose, to the King of *Thunis*, his Ally, to impart to him his Design; and represent to him the great advantages he might derive from the Conquest of *Spain*; conjuring him to come and joyn him, and succour him, as soon as possible, with what Foot and Horse he could assemble.

assemble. This Envoy having put himself into a Felucca, was not long on his Voyage, and met with a most welcome Reception from the King of *Thunis*, who express'd much Joy to see, by *Avilgalit's* Letter, and by his Envoys discourse, that he would make use of him in this occasion. He caus'd the Drum immediately to be beat throughout all his Kingdom, and in a short space levied an Army of thirty thousand Foot, and three thousand Horse; the Command of which he would needs give to Prince *Mahomet-Gilhair*, his second Son. What troubled him most, was the few Ships he had in a readiness to put to Sea, as not being prepar'd for so great an Embarkment. For which reason he was oblig'd to cause all these Troops to wait in a Body, till the arrival of Merchant Ships, wherein he caus'd them to embark; and at last weigh'd Anchor, on the 2. of the Moon of *Sanguel*, in the same year 93.

In the month of August, in the year 714.

These two great Armies being arriv'd on the Coast of *Africa*, *Muca*, who waited for them there, after having held a Council of War with all the General Officers, found they needed some days

days refreshment after the fatigue of the Sea. For which reason all the Troops were brought on shoar; and that the time they might spend in refreshing themselves might not be lost, *Tariff* and Count *Julian* were sent before, with a small Body, to make a Descent into *Spain*; and enquire into the state things were in since their Departure thence; and what Forces the King *D. Rodrigo* might have on foot. The Troops they chose for this Expedition were to the number of six thousand Foot, as well *Moors* as *Julianist Christians*; and about three hundred Horse: With these they cross'd the Streight of *Gibraltar*, and having found a Mountain by the Seaside, fitting to Encamp the few Troops they had, *Tariff* gave it his own *Name, as being the first place where he * It is still began to establish himself. Since the call'd *Tariff* first entrance of the *Moors*, *Rodrigo* had not lain idle, but had made the best Preparations he could for War: Insomuch, that as soon as he knew *Tariff* had made a fresh Descent, for the hindring his Fortifying himself there, he sent his General *Astolpho*, with an Army of thirty thousand Foot, and about five hundred Horse, that were

indeed not over-well Arm'd, nor over-well Martializ'd, for the Reasons I have already hinted.

Astolpho going directly to *Tariff*, and Encamping in sight of him, there was at first several Skirmishes between the Horse of both sides, wherein that of *Tariff* had the disadvantage, which so intimidated the *Moors*, that it had already quite discourag'd them; when that on the morrow morning, at break of day, one of the Sentinels perceiv'd a *Christian Woman*, with a Staff in her hand, on which was a little white Streamer,* for a sign of Peace: This Woman being taken, ask'd to speak with the General of the Army, saying, she was come to bring him such News as would undoubtedly be agreeable to him. As soon as she was in *Tariff's* presence, she prostrated herself at his Feet, and having embrac'd them with great signs of Joy, and great demonstrations of affection, she spoke to him in this manner.

*Tasacrum,
Caresses
Applause.

A Prediction made by a Religious.

Related to General *Tariff* by a *Christian Woman*.

Signior, I am born in Spain, and am call'd *La Testue*. I remember that about sixty years ago, when I was very young, I heard my Father relate, as I was in the Corner of his Chimney, a Prophecy, importing that the people of our Religion should lose the Government of our Country, which was to be conquer'd by the *Moors*: And among other things, it was precisely mention'd, that the Captain who was to make this Conquest, should be very brave, and have on his Right Shoulder a Mole very hairy, of the bigness of a Pea, nay, and that his Right Hand should be much longer than his other; insomuch, that without stooping, he might cover all his knee with that hand. He who made this Prediction is an honest Religious, for whom we Christians have a singular veneration. I earnestly conjure you, in case you have these marks I have newly specified, in re-

compence for the good News I bring you, to save our Lives, I and my Children; and to hinder any injury from being done to their Persons or Goods.

Tariff having caus'd what this Woman had newly said, to be explain'd by a *Christian* Interpreter he had with him, was overjoy'd to hear these things. He strips himself immediately, in the presence of Count *Jultan*, and of all his People, and having caus'd the place the Woman instanc'd to be view'd, they found there the Mole she had mention'd, and the Right Hand longer than the Left, tho not quite so long as she had said.

This News being spread about the Army, occasion'd an universal joy, and all the Officers would needs share in that their General had, to hear, by infallible proofs, that he it was that was to have the Honour of so noble a Conquest. And indeed he was resolv'd to give Battel, and therein to vanquish or dye. And that all the Souldiers might have the same Resolution, he would needs deprive 'em of all hopes of Retreat.

For

For that purpose, as he wanted no industry, he secretly caus'd Fire to be set to all the Ships that had brought his Troops, and reserv'd nothing but a small Vessel, nay, and would needs have that too put out to Sea, for the sending by it to *Muca*, the good or ill News of the Battel.

Tariff having given this Order, and by a Speech, short indeed, but pithy, animated his Souldiers to the Conflict: It was very bloody and obstinate on both sides, but at length the *Christians* were put to flight.

Astolpho, wanting neither Heart nor Conduct, perform'd in this occasion, not only the Duty of a General, but also that of a Souldier; he Rally'd the Runaways the best he could, return'd several times to the Charge, and would never yield himself up, whatever entreaties he had made him, chusing rather to dye with his Sword in Hand, as all those are wont to do that are jealous of their Honour, and are resolved to leave no room ever to be * re- * *Almuba-* *vida*, to
proach'd that they have done any thing blame
contrary to the Fidelity they owe their wrongful-
King. ly, or
without
reason.

In

In this action Count *Julian* was dangerously wounded in the Arm with a Partizan, and *Tariff* slightly in the Left Leg; which very much afflicted the *Moors* and *Julianists*.

The News of this great Defeat being come to *Rodrigo*, he was extremely griev'd, particularly when he knew his General *Astolpho* to be dead, and that he had been defeated by such a small handful of men.

Tariff and Count *Julian* retired forthwith with their Troops to their former Camp on *Tariff*, from whence they sent in all haste to *Muca*, by the Bark he had reserv'd on purpose for this intent, the News of this first Victory, earnestly desiring him to Ship, with all expedition, the two Bodies of Army that had been left in *Africa*, for their refreshment; which *Muca* fail'd not to do, fearing they might need them.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Great Preparations for War made by Rodrigo, in all the parts of his Dominions.

Rodrigo being dejected, as I have newly said, at this first loss, knew not what course to take to hinder the progress of the Enemies, and with whatever hopes those of his Council and Court would needs flatter him, he was not capable of receiving any Consolation, so full had his Heart been of anxiety for some time, and pre-possess'd with the ill Opinion he had of the success of this War. He was not wanting however to use all possible Diligence, and omitted nothing of what he thought could help to free him out of so great a danger, for he was but too sensible, that he it was, particularly, that so horrible a Tempest threatned.

Wherefore he caus'd the Troops he had levy'd in all the Provinces of his Kingdom to advance from all parts, and

and gave them a general Rendezvouze at *Cordona*, where of late he kept his Court; that so he might send them from thence to such places as should need them, and be the readier to take such courses as his occasions should require.

His Orders were so well Executed, that in a little time his Army was found to be fourscore thousand Foot, and twenty thousand Horse; all of 'em People huddled indeed together, and most of 'em without Arms and Experience. He gave them for their General the Arch-bishop *D. Oppas*, his very near Relation; whom he sent before with thirty thousand Foot, and six thousand Horse, to try Fortune once again against *Tariff*, and endeavour to take the Count *D. Julian*, imagining, that as he had the Secret and Conduct of this Enterprize, it was, doubtless, the most compendious way to put an end to the War.

In the mean while fresh reinforcements came every minute to *Tariff*, *Muca* caus'd the two Armies that were left behind in *Africa*, to file daily into *Spain*, as well that which *Hiza* had brought from *Arabia*, as that which Prince

Prince *Mahomet Gilhair* had brought from *Tunis*: But as they came by little and little, and separately, it could not otherwise be but that there must be some Disorder. *Tariff*, to prevent the being surpriz'd in the hurry of Landing, and to draw his Troops up in Battel array, accordingly as they descended from their Ships, resolv'd to take more ground, and a little farther in the Country to choose a place sufficiently spacious for the Encampment of his whole Army, and in security wait the coming of *D. Rodrigo*: Wherefore he advanc'd as far as the River which the *Arabs* call * *Guidalete*, at the same time that the Archbishop *D. Oppas* came thither, and sent to propose to him a Truce for eight days, to give the two Armies time to recover themselves after the fatigues of the March. The Archbishop, who doubtless was not inform'd of the state of the Enemies Army, imagin'd this Truce would turn to his advantage, by giving his own time to encrease. But in the mean while, all those Troops that *Tariff* had caus'd to file off, according as they landed, being come, they made up Sixty Thousand Foot, and Ten Thousand Horse, at the review

* Tis the River called *Guidalete*.

review he made of them after the Truce was expir'd. *Oppas* perceiving the fault he had committed, and fearing that the King would reproach him with having given the Enemies time to join all their Forces, and fortify their Camp, he resolv'd to give them Battel without any farther delay. The reinforcement he had receiv'd, join'd with what he had before, made not up above Forty Thousand Men: Yet was he not wanting with these to push the Moors so vigorously, that *Tariff* was constrain'd to retire, after having lost Three Thousand Foot, and about Five Hundred Horse: Whereas the *Christians* lost no more in this action, than Two Thousand Foot, and Two Hundred Horse. The Night having parted them, *Oppas* also retreated into his own Camp, to let his Souldiers take Breath, before he renew'd the Conflict. The number of the Wounded being very great on both sides, *Oppas* sent to propose a Truce to *Tariff*, for three days, which was forthwith concluded on between the two Generals. Things being in this estate, the following Night, a Traytor (for so he may well be call'd, since he sold his own Countrey) stole out of the *Christi-*

ans

ans Camp, into that of the *Arabs*. This Man -being the Companion of *Oppas*, and call'd *Sisebert*, went to tell *Tariff*, that the King *D. Rodrigo's* General, had only demanded this Truce, that he might surprize him that Night, and put him by that means the more easily to rout. *Tariff* affording Credence to this notice, upon the account of the eminent Quality of the person that brought it, (tho it was an imposture, as was afterwards verifi'd) thought it became him to prevent his Enemy, and without waiting till he had put himself in a posture to execute his evil intentions, he made his Souldiers stand immediately to their Arms, and caus'd them to march directly to the *Christians* Camp, where they fell on with so much impetuosity, that they forc'd it, put the whole Army to rout, took General *Oppas*, with the Principal Officers, Prisoners, and got an inestimable Booty, and an infinity of Slaves.

After this Victory, *Tariff* made great presents to *Sisebert*, and retreated near to the *Guadalette*, into the Quarters he had before, and which he had found very convenient for the Subsistence of his Army.

C H A P.

C H A P. I X.

Muca passes into Spain, and joins with Tariff. Rodrigo puts himself at the head of his Army, gives them Battel, and loses it.

M*uca* hearing daily of *Tariff's* great Victories, began no longer to doubt of the Conquest of *Spain*, whether he incessantly sent reinforcements of Souldiers, and Amunitions, and Provisions.

But not being with this contented, he resolv'd to pass the Sea in person, in the head of a fourth Army, so to share in the honour of so fine a Conquest. Wherefore he left to a Brother of his, call'd *Ishmael*, the Government of *Africa*, in his absence; and having with all possible diligence, got together twenty thousand Foot, and six thousand Horse, brave Men, and well appointed; he
went

went to join *Tariff*, who was very joyful at the thing.

When it came to be known that the Vice-roy had himself pass'd the Streights, there pass'd so great a number of *Moors*, being invited by the hopes of pillage, that in the review they made of all their Troops, they were found to be a hundred and fourscore thousand Foot, and forty thousand Horse, besides an infinite number of useless people that are wont to accompany Armies.

Rodrigo, who then exerted all the Duties of a great King, seeing the number of the *Moors* daily to augment, thought it in no wise convenient to give them time to fortifie themselves more: And having assembled his Council, to see what Resolution it became him to take in so great an exigency; they unanimously agreed, That he could do nothing better than go himself in the head of his Army, give them Battel, rather sooner than later; and that all the Nobility, Gentry, and People of Service in *Spain* would not fail to attend him.

This Resolution being taken, the King having nominated for Generalissimo of all his Troops, his Favourite
F AL

* It is now
call'd the
plain of
Truth.

* *Dimin*,
slaves of
ones E-
nemies.

Almerique, a man very brave and resolute; a General review was held near *Cordoua*, in a Plain the *Arabs* shortly after nam'd *Fabe Alguidah* *, where was found twenty three thousand Horse, and a hundred and thirty thousand Foot. This Prince having caus'd the General Officers to come thither, and the most considerable of the Captains, gave them to understand the danger their Country was in, that not only their Honour and their Estates, but their Life and Liberty depended on the good or ill success of the Battel he was going to fight; that after this Action there was no more succours to be expected from their Country, that was exhausted by the late Defeats; that they had no longer any hopes but in their own Valour; that they had only to consider whether they should not rather chuse to dye generously, in fighting for their Country, than to fall themselves, their Families and Children, into a perpetual Slavery *, and be a Prey to foreign Nations, and so different from them in Manners and Religion, that he said not this to them, to expose them alone to the peril, with a design to shelter himself from it; that he should be the first

to

to shew them the way and example; and that he did not believe there to be any man that made a difficulty of going with his King, when they should see him resolv'd to dye with them, and for them.

The Souldiers being encourag'd by this discourse, and resolv'd to dye for their King and Country, having had order to march against the Enemies, there happen'd a remarkable thing, and and of an ill augure, which was that *D. Ramiro*, *Alfier Major* of King *Rodrigo*; being mounted on Horseback, his Horse gave him so terrible a fall, that he dy'd of it, and the Launce broke in two, to which the Royal Standard * was fasten'd.

Those who saw so sudden a * Death, were a little terrify'd; but *Rodrigo* having given the Colours * to another, * *Badr.* continued his march to the River *Gardalete*, where he encamp'd in sight of *Tariff*, in a Plain very proper for the ranging all his Troops in Battalia.

The day following, the King sent one of the bravest men of his Army, call'd *Thodomir*; with five hundred Horse, and two hundred Foot, all choice men, and well arm'd, to view

F 2

the

* *Halam.*
* *Atiar,*
Prodigy.
* *Badr.*
Cornet.

* *Year*,
from dinner till the
Evening.

the Enemies. *Tariff* fail'd not to detach out at the same time, five hundred *Moors*, and three hundred *Julianists*, having in the head of them *Abraham Abenabis*, who began so bloody, and so obstinate a Combat, that it lasted from Three a Clock in the Afternoon, till Night *, which constrained them to part, leaving it undecided which had the advantage; the dead and wounded being much the same on both sides.

The King, whose heart was puffed up with the success of this Skirmish, having held a Council in the Evening, and propos'd to the principal Officers of his Army, to give Battel on the morrow, it was resolv'd on, and a Herald sent to signify it to *Tariff*, who accepted it.

In the
midst of
October, in
the year
714.

It was on the third *Wednesday* of the month of *Maharran*, in the year 94 of the *Hegira*, that this Battel was fought, which began at break of day, and cost both Parties a great deal of Blood: For the *Christians* in this action lost their General *Almerique*, with about three thousand Foot, and eight hundred Horse, and the *Moors* a thousand Foot, and three hundred Horse.

Rodrigo

Rodrigo was extremely afflicted for the Death of *Almerique*; for he had that day perform'd Heroick actions, and shewn he was not only a good Souldier, but a great Captain. And indeed, he it was alone, that had put the Camp of the *Moors* to disorder; among whom he broke in with so much bravery, that he was kill'd upon the spot; and after his death, the *Christian* Army wanted little of being totally defeated.

Cabra,
Grief.

And indeed, *Rodrigo* found it convenient to go and encamp six Leagues from thence, the more safely to deliberate on what he had to do. Whereupon he made his Retreat in the best order imaginable; by these means abandoning the Field of Battel to *Tariff*, who on his side, caus'd all the dead, both *Moors* and *Christians*, to be buried, for fear the Corruption of their Bodies might occasion some Distempers in his Camp. But as soon as he heard *Rodrigo* was retired, taking his Retreat for a flight, he march'd after him with all Expedition, and overtook him on the *Friday* following; when the Conflict ** *Malhama*, Battel, being renew'd, it lasted from Noon till Night, which parted them, without

F 3

either

either parties having the occasion to boast of the advantage. What most afflicted General *Tariff*, was, that Prince *Mahomet Gilhair*, the King of *Thunis* Son, and Count *Julian*, were both dangerously wounded in this action, and the later particularly of three great wounds. On the other side, *Rodrigo* being paul'd by the opposition of the Enemies, found that all he had been thitherto able to do, was but a small matter, and desponding of his being capable of doing any thing more hereafter, he knew not what to determine upon; and all the courses propos'd to him, seeming to him equally bad and dangerous, he chose rather to leave the Decision of Fortune to the day following, than to wait it any longer, having taken a stedfast resolution to Conquer then or Dye.

Whereupon having marshall'd all his Forces in the best order he could, he led them to the Enemies with great vigour, and was by them receiv'd with so much bravery and firmness, that there dy'd that day fifteen hundred Foot, and two hundred and fifty Horse, of the *Christians*, and fifteen hundred *Moors*, in all, as well Horse as Foot. As for the

the wounded, on both sides, the number of them scatter'd up and down, was so great, that they were not reckon'd *. The Battel having been deferr'd till the *Wednesday* following, by the consent of both parties, it began again at break of day, but not with the same obstinacy. For in short, *Rodrigo* seeing his Men stagger, threw himself into the midst of the fray, to re-inspire them with Courage, and did all he could to rally them; but the defeat being absolute, and without remedy *, he forbid the few people he had about him, to follow him; and he left his Camp, without its being known what became of him.

All the *Christians* being thus, or dead, or prisoners, or put to flight; all the Riches of their Camp, wherein there was abundance, became the booty of the Conquerours. But *Tariff*, without suffering his Souldiers to trifle away their time in plunder, and without allowing them one days rest, march'd directly to *Cordoua*, which he took without its costing him one man; and encamp'd all his Troops in the neighbourhood of the Town, in such manner as he judg'd most fitting to refresh them

* *Mudmia*,
Bloody.

* *Diz*,
Hopes.

them, after so many fatigues; and to give the wounded time to be cur'd of their wounds.

CHAP. X.

General Tariff, causes search to be made through all the Country for D. Rodrigo, and promises great rewards to whom ever shall deliver him dead or alive into his hands.

*Tariff,
Exploits.*

** Inban,
Promise.*

Tariff reckon'd for nothing, all these Battels he had won, since Rodrigo had escap'd him; and did not think Spain was ever conquer'd, unless he had him in his hands, For which reason, he had Proclamation made throughout his Army, That whosoever, either Moor or Christian, should deliver him up alive, or dead; he would not only grant * him great Franchizes and Exemptions, but wherewithal to live at his ease the rest of his days. The hopes of such great gains,

gains, set several *Christians*, *Moors*, and *Renegadoes*, upon the hunt, throughout all *Andaloufia*, to enquire after the King.

At last, some of them questing in the Mountains and Lands thereabouts, at a distance saw a Shepherd in a very rich garb, being the same that unhappy Prince was wont to wear. With great joy did they run after him to catch him, and brought him immediately to the General, who having caus'd Count *Julian* to come to view him, he was found to be a very simple and ignorant Swain, from whom they could hardly get a word, and much less information of what they were in quest. He told them he knew nothing else of what they demanded, but that as he was keeping his flock upon the Mountain where they had taken him, he had seen coming towards him, upon a Horse very much tir'd, and that seem'd out of Breath, a man, in the Cloaths he at present wore, who, with a furious voice, and frightful countenance, had bid him pull off forthwith a Coat lin'd with Sheep-skin he had then on; that accordingly having stript himself immediately, he had caus'd him

him to take those fine Cloaths in lieu of his own; and that having afterwards ask'd him if he had any thing to eat in his Scrip, he had given him a little Bread he had left. After which, the Unknown having taken his Crook, commanded him to come shew him the way; which he did, putting him in a little path that went upwards, which he saw him mount, till he lost sight of him.

Tariff was not satisfy'd with this News, for after having discours'd the People of the Country of the place where the Shepherd had seen *Rodrigo*, he understood he was gone towards *Castile*; insomuch that he lost hopes of finding him, and bent his thoughts wholly upon taking all the advantages he might derive from his Victory.

Queen *Zahra Beneliaza* was at *Cordoua*, at the taking of that Town; and tho she had time enough, before the Defeat of her Husband, to make her escape into *Castile*, she had not done so, either that she had been surpriz'd by *Tariff's* Diligence, or for want of Resolution, and improving her time; or rather, in short, through the ill luck those labour under, whom Fortune pro-

prosecutes, who are wont to want Council as well as all things.

Tariff left her in her Palace, without suffering any one to enter therein, to commit the least Disorder; he only made sure of her Person as well as the Palace: And as this great City could not be kept without a great number of Troops, he thought fitting to leave there Prince *Mahomet Gilhair*, as well for the containing 'em in their Dury, as for the recovering his perfect health, for he was not yet well cur'd of his Wounds, nor recover'd from the fatigues of this War. He plac'd about this Prince the Moor, *Abulcacim Hadilbar*, to assist him with his Council in Military Expeditions, in case such occasions should be offer'd; and after having given his Orders, he divided his Troops into two equal Armies, one of which he left to the Vice-roy *Muca*, to go into the Western part of *Andalousia*, and took the other to go into the more Southern, call'd *Grenada*; so to leave nothing behind them, when they had a mind to enter into the Province of *Castile*, which is separated from *Andalousia* on the Eastern side by a great Desert, compos'd of Mountains and Lands,

Lands, which the *Spaniards* call *Sierra Morena*. This Resolution being taken, those two Generals directed their March each his own way, and *Mahomet Gilhair* staid with *Queen Zabra*.

CHAP. XI.

The Amours of Mahomet Gilhair with the Queen, who induces him to turn Christian, and then Marries him.

BEfore they departed from *Cordoua*, *Tariff* fail'd not to do what is commonly done by Conquerours; who change the manner of the Government of the Cities they take, and there Establish such Laws as they please. He seiz'd on the great Church, and of some others which he turn'd into *Moschs*; leaving some to the *Christians*, for the exercise of their Religion. And after having caus'd great Fortifications to be made around that Town, which he consider'd as the Metropolis of *Spain*; he

he particularly encharg'd Prince *Gilhair* to have great respect for *Queen Zabra Beneliaca*, and so to order matters, that she might be as little as possible sensible of her Captivity; representing to him, that being by Nation an *Arabian*, and a near Relation of *Almanzor*, his Master; so nigh that *Mahomet Abnehedim*, her Father, had shar'd *Africa* with him; they ought all to treat her as their real Queen, to endeavour to make her again espouse the Manners and Religion of her Forefathers; which there was a likelihood she would not find it a difficult matter to resolve on, seeing she must needs be inclin'd thereto, by the sentiments of Nature. The Unfortunate *Gilhair* did but too faithfully acquit himself of this Commission; for he saw her so often, and render'd her so many services, that as she was Young and Beautiful, and he Gallant and Witty, he became desperately in Love with her. Nothing now but Feasts and Merriments at *Cordoua*, he daily invented something new to divert and please her, and his thoughts were wholly taken up in making her a thousand presents, wherein there was ever as much gallantry as magnificence:

As

As he had all the conveniency of seeing her he could desire, the respect he bare her, had long hinder'd him from declaring his passion to her. But this at length being become the strongest, he could not forbear giving her to understand, in a thousand conversations he had with her, that if she would again espouse the Religion in which she had been brought up, he would bring her back into her own Countrey, with the Crown of *Thunis*, which he would put upon her Head, instead of that of *Castile*, which she had lost. Every time he discours'd her upon this point, she pretended she did not understand him; but he imagin'd it to be an uneasiness of hers, in suffering a Declaration of Love, that hinder'd her from answering; and that he had to vanquish rather her modesty than her aversion. At length, they two only being together one day, and he thinking her dispos'd to be more favourable to him, he threw himself at her feet, and conjur'd her not to leave him any longer in the uncertainty of his good or evil fortune; and at last, resolve upon pronouncing the word that was to give him his death, or to render him happy all his life long.

The

The Queen not hating him, would not suffer him any longer to flatter himself with vain hopes: Wherefore she declar'd to him, she was resolv'd to live and dye in the Faith * she had embrac'd; * *Hycman, Faith.* but that if the desire he express'd to her of marrying her, was as strong as he would fain perswade her, and if he imagin'd it so easie a matter to change Religion, he would find no difficulty in doing for her, what he propos'd to her, to do for him; that instead of pressing her to turn *Mahometan*, he needed only to turn *Christian*; and that upon this condition, she would consent to a match, wherein there was nothing unworthy of her Royal extraction *. After * *Fach Al- Blood Royal.* this answer, the Prince went his ways home very pensive, but he was not capable to resist his passion long. They were neither of them in a place to solemnize this Marriage, which was quickly agreed on; and the juncture of times was not propitious: For which reason, the Princess caus'd one of her * Religious to come, without the least notice * *Catch, Religious.* being taken out, and marry her in private with the Prince, after he had baptiz'd him. The Ceremonies were perform'd with all possible secrecie *, and *Muhf, Gilhair* convert.

Gilbair and *Zahra* enjoy'd their Amours peaceably for some time, carefully concealing the Images they ador'd in private. But they could not keep their intelligence so secret, but that it was discover'd by one of the Queens Ladies, in whom she confided: She was born in *Arabia*, of the number of those that had been thrown upon the Coasts of *Spain*, with the Queen, and who with her were converted. This Woman, call'd *Sigebeste*, having been perswaded * by some *Moors*, had betaken herself again to her ancient Religion; insomuch, that having seen *Mahomet* make profession of Christianity with the Queen, in her Palace; she resolv'd, tho' with trouble, to inform *Abulcacim Adilbard* how matters went, whom *Tariff* had left with that Prince, in all things to assist him, with his Council. *Aldilbar* was extreamly afflicted at the tydings, and would by no means believe the least on't for a long time; imagining this Woman might perchance, have a grudge to the Prince, for some particular reason*. But making reflexion upon the greatness of the passion he had long observ'd this Prince have for the Queen, he

* *Mubin*,
perswas-
ion.

* *Varia*,
false testi-
mony.

he began to believe him capable of all.

He had then the curiosity, to fathom the thing, without making semblance of ought; and knew at length so well to observe his actions, that without the Queens suspecting it, he discover'd all that had pass'd between them. When he was thoroughly assur'd, he went to the Army, where he acquainted *Tariff* with the particulars of this Intrigue.

Tariff was surpriz'd and perplex'd at the same time, for he consider'd that *Mahomet Gilbair* being no Vassal of *Almanzor*, but the Son of a Prince as Potent as himself, and his Ally, who came to assist him voluntarily with his Forces in this War*; however, just the * *Resist*,
resentment that ought to be had against Conquest
him for so great a rashness, it might be attributed to some jealousy, or to some particular ill will, which might make him incur the Disfavour of his Master. Wherefore he contented himself with sending *Adilbar* back to *Cordoua*, with a reinforcement of Troops, to confine the Queen, Prince *Mahomet*, and all those he should believe to have had a hand in his evil designs*; and gave * *Almubh-*
him complices.
niin, Ac-

him order to take an exact Information of all, and to send it him with all diligence.

As soon as *Adilbar* was return'd, he carefully executed the orders he had brought; after having seiz'd on the Person of the Queen of *Spain*, of the Prince of *Thunis*, and of the Religious that had Baptiz'd him; he sent what he had discover'd to *Tariff*, who immediately gave notice of it to the King of *Thunis*, by a Courier, who carry'd him the Procefs that *Adilbar* had caus'd to be made against his Son, leaving it to him to decree thereupon, according to his good pleasure.

*Hair,
suspicion. The Proceedings of this General, were found very Wise, and very Prudent; by this means, he screen'd himself from all suspicion*, envy and jealousy, and discharg'd himself from the odium he might have incurr'd by the Death of this Young Prince: For, as soon as his Father was inform'd of his Impiety, he wrote to his men to put him to Death, without waiting for further orders. The Courier having brought his dispatches to *Tariff*, while that he was in the Province of *Grenada*, the General being not permitted to quit the

the War he had in those Parts; sent an absolute Power to *Adilbar*, with all his Forces, to see this Execution done; and to make an Exemplary punishment of all those that were found accomplices of so black a business.

Adilbar having receiv'd *Tariff's* Commission*, and that of the King* *Amr*, of *Thunis*, caus'd the Procefs to be review'd against *Zabra* and *Mahomet*, and had them fetcht out of Prison, one Friday morning, to conduct them before the Principal Church of *Cordoua*, where there is a good handsome Place. There he exhorted* them to renounce the Law of the *Christians*, if they were willing to save their Lives. But they would in no wise consent thereto; and declar'd that they rather chose to suffer the Death with which they were threatned, and which they were ready to receive, than renounce the Faith they had Embrac'd. *Adilbar*, both surpriz'd and provok'd at this obstinacy, caus'd them all three to be beheaded; and their Bodies were a long time abandon'd in the place, in the midst of the dirt; from whence they were taken by the *Christians*, who bury'd them the best to their ability, tho not accord-

according to the grandeur of their Birth.

CHAP. XII.

Tariff makes himself master of the Province of Grenada, and of the Snowy Mountains, call'd by the Spaniards of the Sun, and of the Air.

ALL things being peaceable at *Cordoua*, and nothing more being to be fear'd on that side, *Tariff* pursues his Conquests towards the South, and march'd with all his Army, towards the Province of *Grenada*; he met with no * Resistance in all the Places where he pass'd; on the contrary, all the Inhabitants went to meet him, and brought Victuals, and all sorts of Refreshments to his Forces; conjuring his Souldiers, not to injure * People that put themselves under his Obedience and Protection. *Tariff* gave the necessary orders for the containing them in subjection, but tho he was fear'd, and by consequence obey'd;

* *Marmobauds*, without resistance.

* *Facat*, insolencies.

obey'd; for that he was very severe, and did not willingly suffer Omissions in the Executing his Commands; his Souldiers seeing themselves in a Land of Conquest, did not however refrain from committing some Insolencies.

At last, at a distance he perceiv'd a City built upon a Hill, from whence one had the Prospect of the most pleasant and most fertile Plain imaginable, and that had the air of the Terrestrial Paradise. For it was all about surrounded with little Mounts, full of Trees and Springs, and cut by a large and deep River, that pass'd in the midst of a great extent of Meadows, all sow'd with Flowers. Those he sent to view it, having brought him word that it had good Walls and good Towers, he Encamp'd in the midst of that Plain, that his Forces might take Breath, and that he might at his leisure see where it was to be attack'd with most success. But no sooner had he begun the Approaches in the forms, than that the Inhabitants, seeing the few men they had to oppose against so great a strength, and having no hopes of succours, being inform'd of the Defeat of their King, after having long conferr'd together

G 3

about

about the means of securing their freedom, they resolv'd upon sending to offer *Tariff* to surrender up the Town, provided he suffer'd them and their Families to enjoy in Peace all their Goods and Estates, and remain in their Country without Oppression * in their Persons, or Violence done them in their Religion.

Tariff having held a Council, accepted their Offers; and promis'd to cause the Conditions carefully to be observ'd, upon which they were willing to put their Town into his hands. The Articles of the Capitulation were drawn up by them, and signed by this General, who swore in the Name of *Almanzor* punctually to observe them: And thus, without its costing him so much as one man, he entred *Grenada* with part of his Army; and plac'd as Governour, one of his Captains, call'd *Betis Abenabur* *, born in *Arabia Felix*. He only cross'd this Town, that so he might at the same time reduce the Mountains which cover it on the South; these the *Christians* call the Mountains of the *Sun* and of the *Air* †, by reason they are in the Middle Region: For he had been told that the Peasants being

* *Tapdit*, ill treatment.

* *Betis Abenabur*, first Governour of *Grenada*.

† This is what the *Spaniards* call *Surra ne vada*, The Snowy Mountain, and the *Arabs* from the ancient *Spanish* word corrupted, *Solyr*.

ing brave resolute fellows, were resolv'd to defend them; relying upon the little knowledge the *Moors* had of their Country, wherein it was impossible to penetrate very far with an Army.

Tariff, who hitherto had not found any obstacle in his Conquests, no not even in the City of *Grenada*, where he expected to have met with some resistance, confided in his wonted success, and the Resolution of his Souldiers; and imagin'd that this little corner of Earth being only defended by Bumpkins, would not hold out longer than the other Places where he had pass'd.

But when he was at a great *Ravine*, It is not making a Torrent that falls into a River, which the *Christians* call *Auzeva*, known what this Ravine is, or Par de Toc, unless it be the bridge of Tabalate. The Moors have since call'd this River Or-giba. being oblig'd to stop there, about midnight the Peasants came and attack'd his Camp with so much fury, that he was forced to abandon it, after having there lost four thousand Foot, and some Horse. On the morrow, being enrag'd to have been thus beaten by Bumpkins, he resolv'd to be Reveng'd on 'em, and to attack 'em, as he did, in the same place. But the *Christians* defended

themselves with as much vigour as the day before, and without losing hardly one of their side, they kill'd fifteen hundred more of his Men. What enrag'd him most, was the difficulty of the Country, where the Cavalry, wherein consisted his greatest strength, could not penetrate; whereas these Peasants, from the advantageous Posts they possess'd, made a great slaughter of his Men, without his being able to come at them: Whereupon he was upon the point of desisting from his Enterprize, where he only lost time and Souldiers; and to carry his Arms elsewhere, when that one of those Mountainers call'd *Fandino*, to secure a little Estate he had in that Canton, came and shew'd him a place, by which he might come and enter with the Horse into the heart of the Country, and easily subdue it: The General was overjoy'd, and having ask'd this Peasant a thousand Questions *, to which he made pertinent answers; by his advice he drew off his Troops four miles from the place where they lay, and having given order to his Fleet to draw near that Coast, he detach'd one of his most Valiant Captains, call'd *Abraham Abuxarra*,

* *Extricat*,
Examina-
tion.

buxarra, with ten thousand Foot, and four hundred Horse, to a place call'd *Xat*, by the *Arabs*, where he Shipp'd him with all his Men, and *Fandino*, whom he sent along to serve him for his Guide; *Abraham* was not long before he arriv'd at a Town upon the Eastern Coast of Spain by the *Christians*, call'd * *Adrada*, and in good order entred the heart of the Country, pillaging, and laying all waste.

* It is at
present
Adra.

The *Christians* had no Cavalry, and expected no succours, seeing themselves shut up on all sides, *Abuxarra* attacking them behind, while *Tariff* beat them before, yet made not any movement, by which we could perceive the Extremity they were reduc'd to: But after being assembled to see what course was best for them to take, they resolv'd to send to demand a Truce * *Colch*, for fifteen days of *Tariff*, that so they might have time to concert with him the Conditions on which they were willing to surrender.

* *Colch*,
Truce.

Tariff having immediately accepted the offers they made him, and having given a safe Conduct * for such as they were minded to send as Deputies to him; they chose the Bishop of that Country,

* *Amr*,
Thing.

Country, call'd *Oroger*, with some other Persons of Credence, whom they sent into the Camp with the necessary Powers. He was a man of Wit and Learning, and very Expert and knowing in affairs. He was very kindly receiv'd by *Tariff*, who immediately struck up with him in the following Conditions: That the *Christians* should remain in that Country if so minded, and should not be molested either in their Persons, or Estates, or their Consciences: That they should not pay any other Imposts, than the Tribute they were wont to pay to *Christian* Kings. That if any among them were not willing to stay there, they should be suffer'd to sell their whole Estate, and go into whatever Country, inhabited by *Christians*, they should best like.

This Capitulation being sign'd by *Tariff*, in the name of the Great *Almanzor* his Master, in whose name he promis'd to observe it very exactly; *Abraham Abuxarra* * was left there as Governour: And as he was the first that entred the Country, and had been its first Governour, this little Province was from this time call'd by his name.

This

*It is now still call'd *Las Alpujarras*.

This General having now totally reduc'd those parts that fell to his lot, re-assembled all his Forces to return to *Cordoua*, by the same way he came, with a Design to rejoin *Muca*, after that to enter both together, and without any longer delay, into the Province of *Castile*.

CHAP. XIII.

The Conquests of Muca, and his return to Cordoua.

AT the same time that General *Tariff* began his march, to lead his Army towards the *East* and *South*, into the Province of *Grenada*, as we have said, the Vice-roy *Muca* went to lead his towards the *West*, into the Province which the Natives of the Country call *Andaloufia*, from the name of certain People, that formerly inhabited it, call'd *Vandals*. He march'd at first against *Carmona*, a small Town indeed, but well fortify'd; where several *Christians* had taken refuge, from all

all the Burroughs, and all the Villages of that Country, which they had forsaken at *Muca's* Approach, and where they had stor'd themselves with all sorts of Ammunition and Provisions, that so they might defend themselves as long as possible they could.

The Vice-roy having block'd it up on all sides, the Besieged resolv'd to make a Sally out of the strongest of their Gates, and with the best men they had, to see if there was any possibility of defeating their Enemies, before they had better fortified themselves.

Wherefore on the morrow at break of day, having taken Arms, and encouraged one another to do well, they attack'd the *Moors* Camp with so much Bravery, and in such good order, that they kill'd three hundred of them before they could know, and put themselves in a posture of Defence, and return'd into the Town, having lost but five and twenty on their side.

This success having puff'd up their Hearts, they would needs see the day following, if Fortune * would be as favourable to them. But having found the *Moors* upon their Guard, they were received

* *Rechadad*
Zagle,
Good
Fortune
try'd

received a little more smartly than the day before, and constrained to return into the Town faster than they came thence. The *Moors* pursu'd them so closely, that the Governour of *Carmena* fearing that by opening the Gates to receive them, the Enemies would enter pell-mell with them, and so make themselves masters of the Place; he found it more expedient to let the few *Christians* that were without to be lost, than to lose the Town in endeavouring to save them; and forbid the opening to them the Gate, he fear'd it would be no longer in his power to shut.

The *Christians* seeing the Resolution their Governour had taken, all on the sudden took a very generous one; for having all engag'd rather to dye like Men of Courage, than be made slaves, they fac'd about upon those that pursu'd them, and fighting like Desperate People, kill'd eight hundred of them, and push'd on into the midst of *Muca's* Camp, where they were all kill'd upon the spot, or taken Prisoners, without so much as one of them escaping. *Muca* being very much enrag'd at these two bad successes, assembled the Principal Officers to hold a Council

Council of War, wherein it was resolv'd on the morrow morning to make a General attack. The Ladders were set up against the Walls, and the *Moors* mounted them with great Resolution: On the other side, the Besieger'd defended themselves with great firmness, Killing and Topsy-turvyng those that mounted. Among others, the Governour of the Place, call'd *Galo*, did then perform Heroick Actions; for he alone, with two men he had with him, defended a whole Courtine, from one Tower to another, which he had undertaken to maintain; and with a Cross-bow, kill'd or wounded for his own part that day himself alone fourscore *Moors*. This Conflict lasted from Noon till Night, and in it the Vice-roy lost fifteen hundred men; whereas the Besieged, as we were afterwards inform'd, lost but three hundred.

The time and men *Muca* lost before this Place, made him resolve, for the rendring himself master of it, to try another way than that of force, which he had sped so ill in thitherto. Whereupon he sent to summons the Besieged to surrender, offering not only

ly to spare their Lives, but to grant them great Priviledges, if they made their Composition sooner than later. This Proposal caus'd the Besieged to open their Eyes, and the Principal of them assembling to confer with their Governour; they concluded, that tho they should still hold out for a while, their * Provisions would at length fail them, and their Souldiers would diminish; that all that Province was almost subdu'd, that they could not expect succours from any body, that thus sooner or later they would be a Prey to the Victorious: For which reason, they made answer, That they were content to open him the Gates of their City, provided he would suffer them to depart thence with their Wives and Children, and all they had of Money, Arms and Baggage, and generally all things whatever that they could carry along with them, whither they pleas'd, with full freedom.

All that they required was granted them, bating the Baggage; upon which they were told, That they might only carry away with them, what they could load upon a hundred Waggon, with which they were contented.

Thus

* *Zid*, *A-*
munitions.

Thus all the *Christians* departed, and went to another City near the Sea, call'd *His pala* in their Tongue, while that *Muca*, after having plac'd a Governour there, with some Souldiers, for its Guard, decamp'd forthwith to march towards a very great and populous City, which the *Spaniards* in their Tongue call *Merida*.

In this Town there was a very brave *Christian* Governour, and as he Signaliz'd himself in this Siege, and therein perform'd Actions worthy of Praise, he well deserves that I should dwell a little longer upon the Relation of his Performances.

This Governour, call'd *Salara*, seeing the havock made by the *Moors* Army in the Countries where it pass'd, caus'd all the *Christians* in the Neighbourhood of *Merida* to retire into that Town, with their Wives and Children, and caus'd them to bring along with them, all the Victuals there was in the Country; where having left only what could not be remov'd, he himself sent some to burn all the Villages thereabouts, and to make a havock throughout all the Country, that so when the *Moors* should come thither, they might find

find nothing left. He did not content himself with this, he caus'd all the Waters to be poyson'd, and having employ'd all the Peasants, he caus'd 'em to work upon the Fortifications of the Town: He repair'd its Walls, its Battlements and Parapets: And having caus'd a Review to be made of what men he had in a condition to fight, he found 'em five thousand strong, whom he distributed into the Towers, and other Places he judg'd convenient. Things were in this posture when the Vice-roy drew near the Place, and having block'd it up on all sides, began by sending to Summons *Salaru* to Surrender, otherwise that he would put all that were in it to the Sword.

But the Governour having made him Answer, That he might do as he pleas'd; That the Mercy of God was greater than his Forces, and that it afforded him more Confidence than all his Threatnings gave him Fear.

Muca being provok'd at this Refusal, caus'd all things to be prepar'd for the making the Assault. The next day the *Moors* being mounted to the Scallade, were there receiv'd, and vigorously repuls'd by the Beleaguer'd, by

H

means

* *Ygaa*,
help in di-
ligence.

means of the great order, with which they ran to the * relief of one another upon occasion. The Attack lasted the whole day, wherein the Besiegers lost six hundred Men, and the Besieged only fifty seven. But the *Moors* having renew'd the fight the next morning at break of day, that they might afford the Besieged no respite it was so obstinate and furious, that the Town had like to have been taken at unawares. The *Moors* having already got to the top of the Wall, and being ready to leap into the Town, when that *Salaru*, who went to all the places that had need of his Succours, running thither just in the nick, tumbled them down from the top of the Walls, and by this means deliver'd *Merida*, that but for him had been now taken; obliging the Besiegers to retire with the loss of eight hundred men, whereas he had lost but about three hundred.

The Vigour the *Christians* had exerted in these two Conflicts, did a little cool that of the Vice-roy, who resolv'd to quarter all his Army round the place, and see if he could not take it by Famine. *Salaru* having perceiv'd his Design, made a very exact review of all

all that was in the Town, that he might more duly see how long his Victuals could last. He found there to be several useless Mouths, in Women, Children, and Old Men, that were past bearing of Arms, and yet consum'd the Provisions, that began already to diminish, tho there had been as yet but thirty days Siege, and that they had laid up great stores before-hand. He also saw it to be impossible for him to hold out much longer, and not being strong enough to stir out of the enclosure of the Town to fight the Enemies, he bethought himself of employing Stratagem, to endeavour to make them raise the Siege. Wherefore he sent to *Muca*, That he was mistaken, if he thought, by Famine, to force him to Surrender: that he had still Bread enough for above ten years; and to make good his words, he caus'd a world of Baskets full of Loaves, to be thrown from off the Walls.

This Complement had like to have made *Muca* run mad, and he made no answer to it but by a General Assault, which lasted a whole day, with great vigour on both sides: for there fell above five hundred *Moors*, without

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reckoning

reckoning Captain *Aliculeyman*, who was very much wounded, which extremely afflicted *Muca*. It cost the Besieged little less, who also lost in this occasion four hundred men. But *Muca* having been oblig'd to cause the Retreat to be sounded, by reason of the night, the next morning he sent a Trumpeter to the Governour, to signifie to him, That he had made an Oath, and sworn by the most high God, that if the Be-leaguer'd delay'd Surrendring any longer, they should after this, all to no purpose implore his Mercy.

Salaru having straitways assembled the principal men of the Town, gave them in a little time a very exact account of the state of the place; and after having made them apprehend the necessity they were in of all things, and the little likelihood he saw of being Reliev'd, they all agreed to Surrender, but upon the most advantageous Conditions they could get: Infomuch that they made him answer; That they would willingly put the Place into his hands, provided he would suffer them, they, their Wives and Children, with their Arms and Baggage, to go to whatever City of the *Christians* they should please;

please; that all those that were minded to stay, should not receive any ill treatment, nor be constrain'd to quit their Religion. *Muca* agreeing to all these Articles, and having been induc'd to Sign 'em, and swear in the Name of the Caliph his Master, never to act to the contrary, conceiv'd such an esteem of the Bravery and Fidelity of this Governour, and of his ability to take his Precautions, that he took a Scimitar of great value he had at his Girdle, and himself put it on his side, saying, That the Valour with which he had sav'd his People from so great a Danger, merited a thousand times more Honour than he did him.

Salaru having given him the Keys of the Town, where the Riff-raff only staid, he took all those along with him that were minded to follow him, with whom he went on Shipboard, to waft o're to the nearest Islands of that Coast, that he might not see the Ruine of his Country, and so shelter himself from the servitude* of the *Arabians*, under which * *Qutur*, he foresaw that all *Spain* was going to Servitude. be reduc'd.

The Vice-roy of *Africa* was overjoy'd at the taking of this great City,

but could not stay there long, for that there was no subsistence to be got out of the Country, that had been forsaken by the People, who had all taken refuge in the Province, call'd in the *Spanish Tongue Castile*, and had left this Country desert. For which reason, after having put a Garrison into the Place, he caus'd all his Troops to march towards *Hispalis*. They were not gone far, when that his Scouts came to give him notice, that the world of People that had taken refuge there, had occasion'd such a Contagion, that the mortality was general. This News put a full stop to his Career that way; and the fear he was in of causing his Army to perish, made him return to *Cordoua*, to rejoin *Tariff*, who had signify'd to him, he was already on his way from *Grenada* thither.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

The Conjunction of the two Generals, and their entrance into Castile.

THESE two Generals, being return'd from their Expedition, after having each on his side acquir'd much Honour; did for a long while hold Council what course to take, for the finishing the absolute Conquest of *Spain*; for which they had receiv'd precise orders from *Almanzor*. During that time, the Souldiers being put into good Quarters, recover'd themselves of the Hardships of that War. The Officers repair'd their Equipages, which so long a march had ruin'd; and the Commissioners not only receiv'd all the new Provisions that were come to them from *Africa*, but had also gather'd up on all sides, all that was necessary for the Invasion of *Castile*, according to the resolution they had taken.

At last, the two Armies that now

Albani,
Provision
of all
things.

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made

made but one Body, being decamp'd in the best order imaginable, march'd small days journeys, along a great River, which having its course towards the Setting Sun, crosses that Province; and after having wash'd the Walls of *Cordoua*, at a great distance lower falls into the Ocean. Thus still on their Right leaving this River *, which the *Christians* call *Betis*, and the *Arabs*, *Algudalquivir*; the first Town they found in their Left was *Ubeda*, whose Inhabitants brought them their Keys, as not being in a posture of making a Defence.

* *Dan Cur-*
win, the
greater
Sez.

Tariff having on pain of Death, forbidden any entrance into the Town, without Express order; or in any wise, the injuring of People, that had thrown themselves into his Arms, did there only leave one Captain *Abencorbas*, with some Souldiers, and leisurely march'd to another Town, not three miles thence, call'd *Balle*. The Citizens seeing that if they paus'd at following the Example of *Ubeda*, they should but Exasperate the *Moors*, and incur their inevitable ruine, without any profit; they sent immediately to beseech this General, to hinder any mis-

mischief from being done them by his Souldiers; and in consideration of that, they would not only surrender to him, but likewise present him with all sorts of Victuals and Refreshments for his Troops.

Tariff very joyfully accepted their offers, and to manifest his Clemency to them, and the Discipline he caus'd his Army to observe, having forbidden any one soever to enter therein without his order, he himself, one after the other, nominated all those he was willing should accompany him thither, to the number of five hundred; with whom alighting, he took a turn round the Town, visited all the Fortifications, and left there a Natural *African*, call'd *Mahomet Abencorba*, with a pretty strong Garrison, for its Preservation. He staid no longer there than he had done at *Ubeda*, and pursu'd his way Northwards, across a vast pile of Mountains, that separate *Andaloufia* from *Castile*, and stretch from the *Mediterranean* Sea to the Ocean. Thus having travers'd twenty miles, or thereabouts, they are in breadth, he descended into the Plains *de la Manche*, which the *Arabs* call the *Dry Fields* *; where ha-

* *Faye abis*,
in Spanish
ving *Campo seco*.

ving gone near sixty miles without meeting with any body, all the People having quitted, and being retired into the heart of the Country; he at last discover'd a Town, which seem'd very beautiful to him, and much stronger than all those he had yet seen, and was told that it was *Toledo*, the Metropolis of *Castile*, where the *Christian* Kings had in all times made their abode. Along this City passes the famous River of *Tage*, which also disembogues into the *Western* Sea. And here it was King *Rodrigo* had caus'd the Enchanted Tower to be open'd, whereof I have made mention in the beginning of this History.

Tariff having Encamp'd all his Troops in the Neighbourhood, with intention to Besiege it, the *Christians* sent to tell him, That they had no thoughts of holding out; and that, provided he would suffer them to enjoy peaceably what they had, and permit all those that were so minded, to go where they pleas'd, with their Families, and all their Baggage, they would pay him all sort of Obedience, and would be as faithful to him, as they had thitherto been to their King.

This

This General having expected to have met with some opposition in this Place, was overjoy'd it did not oblige him to any stop; and swore solemnly in the Name of the *Caliph Almanzor*, his Master, for ever to observe the Conditions, on which they would put the Keys of so great a Town into his hands. He would needs also, for the maintaining it in the ancient Prerogative it had, of being the Capital City of so great a Kingdom, leave there, as Governour, one of his principal Officers, call'd *Mahomet Abenbamin*, of the City of *Damas*, with the Quality of Vice-roy, and a Garrison he judg'd convenient.

It is a thing somewhat astonishing to be remark'd, that in near a hundred and forty miles march, made by these two Generals, still skirting the Sea of the *Levant*, and drawing Northwards, they found not one living Soul*, till * *Mabaluc*, living Soul. they came to a Province call'd *Arragon*, in the midst of which there is a City call'd *Saragoza*, where several *Christians* had taken refuge, as well as in the Mountains next adjoining, to shelter themselves from the fury of the *Moors*.

This City would needs stand out an
As-

Affault, that was bloody ; after which it Surrendred upon very advantageous terms. Thus they staid there only the time requisite for the settling, as Governour of all that Province, a Captain of great Reputation, born in *Arabia*, call'd *Ismael Abenbut* ; and resolv'd to push their Arms further, and even beyond the Mountains the *Christians* call the *Pyrenees*, which separate the Kingdom of *Spain* from that of *France*.

They are very rugged and high; and the *Christians* were said to be retired thither, with a resolution of making a stout Defence. Nevertheless they advanced there about twenty miles, without meeting with any Resistance; insomuch that the Generals having made reflexion that their Master having only given them order to Conquer *Spain*, and *France* being a great Kingdom, wholly different, and wholly separate, it would be exceeding their Power, to push on their Invasion upon it. And seeing their Troops wearied with so long a March, and much diminish'd by all the Garrisons they had been oblig'd to leave in the Towns they had taken; they resolv'd to go no further, and

and remitting the Conquest of *France* till another time, they thought it more convenient to return into *Castile*, to give the necessary orders for the conservation of what they had taken, and the reduction of what they had still left to take.

C H A P. XV.

The March of the two Generals towards Valentia and Murtia, and their Return to Cordoua.

THE two Generals taking the Field again with their Forces, upon their departure from *Arragon*, bent their march towards the *East*, and continued it without any stay, to a great Plain, in the midst of which is a great City, enclos'd with good Walls; whence you have a Prospect of the *Mediterranean* Sea, that is but but four small Leagues distant: All the Country adjacent is full of very delightful Gardens, Groves, and a world of Springs, which form the finest Landscape imaginable.

Tariff,

Tariff, before he would begin the Siege, thought fitting to send to summon the Inhabitants to Surrender; as all the other Cities of *Spain* had done; in consideration of which, he promis'd to suffer 'em to live in Peace, according to their Law, and to hinder any injury from being done them. But the Trumpeter coming near the City-gate, the Centinel that was upon the Wall, without hearkning to what he said aloud, or imparting it to the Governour, let fly a Bullet from a Stone-Bow at him, by which the Trumpeter perceiving himself wounded, without staying any longer, came flying to the Camp. *Tariff* being provok'd at the little regard they had for a man that came from him, took this affair, not only for a want of respect * to him, but for an infraction of all the Laws of War, and the Right of Nations, and gave order for the Attacking the Town on all sides.

* *Quilathia*, Discourtesie.

The next day the Governour, call'd *Agros*, having been inform'd of what the Centinel had done, was very much surpriz'd at this misunderstanding, and thought convenient to send to make his excuse to *Tariff*, and propose to him at the same time a Truce for three days;

days; during which, they would see to contrive the means of making their Capitulation.

The Envoy of *Valence* was kindly receiv'd by the General. The Truce was granted, and the Hostages having been agreed on, he went out of the Town with full power to treat on the behalf of the Besieged, and came to *Tariff's* Camp, with whom he agreed to deliver him the Town, on Condition, that all the *Christians* that were minded to go thence, might have the freedom so to do, with their Wives and Children, and all their Goods, to whatever place they should please to choose. As also that all those that would stay there, might do it without being injur'd in the least. *Tariff* made no difficulty of granting them all they demanded, and of promising to observe what he granted in the name of *Almanzor* his Master. In consideration of which, he made his entrance into that Town, and there left as Governour one of his Captains, a Native of *Arabia Felix*, nam'd *Abubaxar Xandalg*, whom he plac'd there with a numerous Garrison, to curb not only that Town, but the whole

whole Province depending on it.

After having thus settled matters at *Valence*, *Tariff* and *Muca*, having bent their march a little more towards the *South*, entred the Province, by the *Spaniards* call'd *Murtia*; where having met with no resistance, they render'd themselves Masters of the Capital City, that goes by the same name. Finding it forsaken by the Inhabitants, and the Country very good, they resolv'd upon settling there a part of the Souldiers of their Army, for the re-peopling it, and therein to put as Governour, *Abraham Alexandri*, by Nation an *African*. These two Armies being by these means reduc'd to a very scanty number, and by leaving so many upon the way, both for Guarding and Populating all the Towns where they had pass'd, they return'd to *Cordoua*, to recreate themselves after the fatigues of this War.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

The Order that Tariff left in Spain, before his Departure thence.

THE Governour of *Cordoua*, *Abulxacim* by name, knowing the coming of the two Generals, went out to meet them four Leagues from that Town, with all the Foot and Horse in Arms he had, and accompany'd them in the Triumphant Entrance they made into that Place. During the abode they had occasion to make there, to recover themselves after the Hardships of so long and painful a War, they apply'd themselves carefully to regulate the form of Government of the Countries they had Conquer'd. But above all things, they judg'd it in no wise safe for them, to suffer the *Christians* to remain Masters of so considerable a Town as *Hispalis*. I have noted in the beginning of this History, that the Siege of this Town had not
I been

been undertaken, for fear of bringing the Pestilence into the Army: Wherefore a trusty man was sent on purpose into those parts, to see how matters stood; who having brought word back, That the Contagion was there more rife than ever, and that an infinite number of Persons dy'd of it, it was judg'd requisite to leave it still alone, and that it would be sufficiently destroy'd by this Scourge of Heaven, without there being any need to infect it likewise with that of War.

One thing on which they found themselves oblig'd to think preferable to all others, was to recompence Count *Julian*, for the great Services he had done to *Valid*. They had promis'd him to cause his Castle of *Algesirees* to be * Rebuilt, and to Repair and Re-establish his other Lands and Lordships, that had been ruin'd by the passage he had given through them, to all the Forces that came out of *Africa* into *Spain*. Inasmuch that they caus'd great summs of Money to be given him, and granted great Franchizes and Priviledges to all his Relations and Followers. Whereupon he took his leave of them, to repair home to set all

* *Hara*,
Reparation.

all things again to Rights, and enjoy, if he could, the Sweets of the Revenge he had taken of *D. Rodrigo*.

After this, they fell in good earnest to consider of regulating and policying their new Kingdom, and of re-populating that great Country that was become a Desert, by the flight of all the Inhabitants. Wherefore seeing that the *Moors* they had left in Garrison in the Cities and Burroughs where they had pass'd, had no Wives, tho they were all very Young, and that it was impossible to furnish them with enough from *Africa*, whence their Fathers and Mothers would never consent to suffer them to depart; they caus'd Proclamation to be made by sound of Trumpet, throughout all *Spain*, That all the Christian Women and Maidens, as well of the ancient Inhabitants, as of whatever Nation they were, that were willing to be Converted, and Marry themselves to the Conquerours, should enjoy the same Priviledges and Prerogatives which they enjoy'd before. They caus'd at the same time, another Declaration to be Published in favour of the Gentlemen, to whom they offer'd

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the

the Dividend of the Conquer'd Lands.

* Nabie,
Perfwasi-
on.

This Publication in a short time, either out of fear or interest, caus'd an infinite number of *Christians* to change their Religion, and the Women and Maidens to resolve upon matching themselves with the *Moors*. At that time was it that the Arch-bishop of *Oppas*, who had been General of *Rodrigo's* Army, that *Tariff* had beaten and taken Prisoner in the second Battel, that had been fought near the River *Guadalete*, as I have said; and the Arch-bishop *Toriso*, a very near Relation of that Unhappy King, abjur'd their Faith to * comply with *Tariff* and *Muca*. These two new *Moors*, to manifest their Zeal, and acquire still more credit than they had with the Generals, represented to them, that to hinder the *Christians* from revolting for the future, or retrieving Courage with time, it was expedient thoroughly to clear all the Mountains on the Left Hand of *Arragon*, in *Spanish* call'd *Biscaye*, and the *Asturies*; where they gave them notice that several Persons of great Quality had made their Retreat with a great number of Souldiers;

nay,

by the *Moors*.

nay, and that there was at the head of them such Persons as were Princes of the Blood of *Spain*, and *D. Rodrigo's* near Relations; without which their Conquest would never be secure.

This advice jump'd wholly with *Tariff's* sence, who gave immediate order to a *Tartar*, a very good Officer, *Abraham le Sujari* by name, to take six thousand men of the Forces he had by him, and likewise to draw as many as he should need out of the Garrisons of *Castile*, and to march with the two *Renegado* Arch-bishops, into the afore-mention'd Mountains.

At that time a Young Prince, a Kinsman of the K. *D. Rodrigo*, call'd *Pelage*, was retir'd thither with a good number of resolute men, that were willing to follow his Fortune; and as he was brave, and pretended to the Crown, all the *Christians* that had taking refuge in the Mountains, had elected him King; and certainly he made himself appear to be very worthy of that Supreme Dignity.

General *Abraham* being come near the *Asturies*, and encamp'd in a place ^{*Fabpalia*} call'd *Cangas* by the *Christians*, and ^{*segat*, in} which the *Moors* since nam'd the Term ^{*Spanish*} *of* ^{*Cabo de*} *contendos*.

of War, thought convenient to send the two Arch-bishops to him; having brought them along with him, that so being his Relations and Friends, they might the more easily persuade him to desist from the Temerity of his Enterprize; with orders to offer him such Presents, and propose such advantages to him, as they should judge convenient, as well as to all the *Christians* that should be with him. Whereupon these Arch-bishops being come into the Country, and offering to make this Proposal to *Pelage*, he was so provok'd at them, that he had them seiz'd on, and both thrown from off the top of a Rock, into a River that was at the bottom. And as he had first been inform'd by them of the Scituation of *Abraham's* Camp, and the number of his Forces, he assembled what men he had, and went to attack them that very same Night: And after having defeated the greatest part of the *Moors*, he return'd into the heart of the Mountains without any loss. *Abraham* not expecting this at all, and not seeing the return of the two Renegadoes he had brought along with him, fancy'd they had betray'd him; and with the few

few men he had left, without making any longer stay, he return'd with all expedition to *Toledo*, where he dy'd of Grief.

Tariff was very much troubled at this bad event; but having not then Troops sufficient in one Body to go force the *Asturies*, he contented himself with leading upon the frontier the most men he could, that so he might hinder the *Christians* of the Mountains, from coming to make Inroads upon the *Moors*. Then he resolv'd upon sending to *Almanzor*, his Master, a very exact Relation of all he had thitherto done, with the state of all things in *Spain*, and to ask what was his Pleasure to have further done for his Service. As he was finishing his Dispatches, he had a Letter brought him from *Pelage*; which Translated out of *Spanish* into *Arabick*, is as follows.

A LETTER.

King Pelage, to General Tariff
Abenziet.

THE King D. Pelage, Lawful
Heir, Successour in a Right Line
of the Kingdom of Spain, by the death
of the King D. Rodrigo, whose sins may
God pardon, they being, doubtless, the
cause of his ruine, and my misfortune;
to the Valiant and Renowned Captain
Tariff Abenziet, Cherish'd and Esteem'd
by the Caliph Almanzor, his Master;
Greeting. Tho I am as great a sinner as
any other, and that I have nothing good
but the confidence I put in the mercy of
God; I am willing to make known to thee,
that in thy name came two Envoys, who
being my Relations, ought not to have
come to me, since they were Traytors to
their Country; I thought my self oblig'd
to punish them, as I have done; and was
content to signifie to thee at the same time,
that tho thou hast very unjustly, and by
the force of thy Arms, seiz'd on a King-
dom that appertains to me; nevertheless,

I hope, with the help of God, to regain
it in spite of thee. But if it be not
his will, I beseech him to give me the
Force and Courage to dye, I and mine,
for the Justice of my Cause, and for the
Truth of our Faith, rather than to groan
under the Cruel Toak that thou wouldst
impose upon us; beseeching him daily to
give affairs that current as I desire.

From the Asturias of Oviedo *, the
9th of July, of the Æra of Cæsar,
753.

* This
Date
jumps
with the
year 715
of our
Lord.

Tariff Abenziet upon reading Pelage's
Letter, had more joy to hear of Ro-
drigo's Death, which was the thing he
had the most desire to know, than un-
easiness for all the rest. Wherefore he
made an end of writing Almanzor the
following Letter.

A

A LETTER.

General Tariff Abenziet, to Caliph Valid Almanzor, Emperour of the Moors.

PRaise be given to the Sovereign God, to whom alone is due Sacrifice and Prayer; and afterwards to the most High and most Illustrious Caliph, and Emperour of the Moors, his Vicar, the Buckler of God, and Defender of his Law, the most Noble Caliph Valid Almanzor; whose good Designs may God bring about, to the Happiness and Tranquillity of all his Subjects, as is wish'd by Tariff Abenziet, General of his Armies; one of his least, but most Faithful Servants.

Spain is absolutely conquer'd and rang'd under your Obedience; all the Nations have receiv'd the * Yoak as far as their mighty high Mountains, by the Spaniards called the Pirenees, which parts their Kingdom from that of France. And there is nothing more to conquer in all that vast extent of Land, but a small
corner

*Dirma,
Yoak.

corner of Earth, amid very rugged Mountains, where some Christians have taken refuge, that is of no great consideration, and a very great and Populous Town, called Hispalis, upon the Coasts of the great Sea, for fear of introducing among your forces the Pestilence that rages in that place. I have restor'd to Count Julian all his Lands, as you promis'd him. I salute your Grandeur, and the Felicity of so many great successes. In the midst of a great Province called Andaloufia, is a very populous Town, where the King D. Rodrigo commonly had his Residence; whose Death I have been lately inform'd of by one of his Relations: I have settled there as Vice-roy, with your good liking, the Person of Abulcacim Adilbar, your faithful Servant: This City being proper to serve as Metropolis to the whole Kingdom; which I make known to your Celcitude, that you may order him as you shall please, for your service.

Muca, the Vice-roy of Africa, has rendred great services in this Expedition, where he was several times in danger of losing his Life; insomuch that he, doubtless, merits a great Reward, and hopes it from your Goodness and Magnificence. May God heap his blessings daily upon you.
From

From *Cordoua*, the 23 day of the
Moon *Rageb*, the year of the *Hegira* 94.

All the Answer *Almanzor* made to this Letter, was, That *Tariff* should come himself to him into *Arabia*, to give him an account of the particulars of the Conquest; ordering *Muca* to return into his Government of *Africa*; and sending *Adilbar* Letters Patents, as Vice-roy of all the Kingdom of *Spain*, ordering all the particular Governours that had been left in the Towns, to whom he had sent Commissions, to obey him in all things.

These two great Captains having receiv'd this order, pass'd both into *Africa* immediately after; whence *Tariff* went into *Arabia*, while *Muca* remain'd in his Government.

C H A P.

C H A P. XVII.

*Pelage takes the City of Gixa
from the Moors, and burns it.*

Since that *Pelage* had once vanquish'd the *Moors*, he did not doubt but that he could defend himself in his Mountains. All the *Christians* of the Neighbouring Provinces repair'd to him after this Victory, flattering themselves with the hopes he might one day restore them to their Liberty. Till then they did not believe there to have been any place in all *Spain*, where they could shelter themselves from the fury of those Conquerors, for as they had not any Retreat where they could be in safety, they suffer'd themselves to be put into Fetters. But the young People, that had no Wives, and were most proper for Warfare, began to make their Escapes, by little and little, out of the *Moors* hands; and steal away by night into the Mountains, where *Pelage* had his abode, so to put themselves under his

his Protection. Infomuch that in a short time there was a pretty considerable Body of an Army assembled. Wherefore seeing that General *Abraham* was Retreated into *Castile*, he resolv'd to make some attempt as might accrue to the Credit of his Party.

With this Design, he drew together the most men he could, and made up a body of six thousand men, with whom he came to a small City, call'd *Gixa* by the *Spaniards*, and by the *Arabs* after they had taken it, *Takla*. Wherefore having block'd it up with this small Army, few *Moors* were there that expected to be beleaguerr'd by *Pelage*, whom they did not think so hardy as to budge out of the Tenure where he had hold. Nevertheless they stood out so obstinately with the Captain that commanded in the Place, that they all dy'd bravely fighting, refusing to listen to any Capitulation.

Pelage much satisfy'd with this small Conquest, caus'd it to be fortify'd, left there as Governour one of his Captains, call'd *Manuzes*, and retired with his men into the heart of the Mountain, which the *Christians* in their Tongue call *Oviedo*. *Tariff* was much afflicted at

at this bad success. He then perceiv'd that the *Renegado*-Bishops had well advis'd him, when they would have induc'd him to have render'd himself master of that nook of Land; wherefore imagining that some mischief would come on't; after having given order to the Troops that were in those parts to be ready, and sent word to *Mahomet Abenramin*, Governour of *Toledo*, to draw the most he could together. He also sent him Troops from him, under one of his Captains, call'd *Abenhamza*; who carry'd him an order to attack *Pelage*. All their Troops being assembled, were found to make up a Body of twelve thousand good men, with whom *Abenramin* bent his march towards the *North*.

Pelage making no doubt of getting the advantage this second time as he had done the former, resolv'd upon waiting the coming of the Enemy in that Town he had newly conquer'd, with about 8000 men he then had with him.

While he was preparing to go receive the *Moors* there, a *Christian* *Renegado* gave him notice that his Captain *Manuzes*, had made an offer to *Tariff* of delivering up to him that little

little City; nay, and to seize on his Person. *Pelage* could not doubt of the truth of what he told him, when he had shew'd him a Letter he carry'd from that General to *Manuzes*, wherein was the whole train of the Conspiracy minuted against him. He highly entertain'd the *Renegado*; and after having made him a world of Presents, he desired him, since he express'd so much desire to serve his Country, to return to the *Moors* Camp, to tell *Abenramin* that it was not yet time for him to advance, *Pelage* not being yet arriv'd in the Town with all his Forces.

The *Renegado* having accepted this Commission, made that forged answer to *Abenramin*, who was very glad at it, and sent him forthwith back to *Gixa*, to stay till the Prince was there arriv'd, and to bring him immediate word. But instead of going thither, he went to the *Christians* Camp. *Pelage* not losing time, march'd all the night; and being acquainted with the Country, he arriv'd at the Camp of the *Moors*, without they having the least inkling of him, and attack'd them with so much vigour, that he

kill'd

kill'd a very great number of them, and put all the rest to flight; obliging General *Abenramin* to Retreat in great disorder.

In this Attack the *Moors* lost two thousand men, and the *Christians* about eight hundred. But *Pelage* fearing to engage too far in the Battel with *Abenramin*, who had double the number of his men; and who, after having rally'd his Souldiers that had been taken unprovided, might surround him; he made a hasty retreat to the Town of *Gixa*; where as soon as he was enter'd, he caus'd the Traytor *Manuzes* to be hang'd, and his Body burnt. Then for fear the *Moors* might take that Town again, after having turn'd out all its Inhabitants, he set fire to't, and Retreated into the Mountains to defend their entrance against the *Moors*, by whom he was under fear of being pursu'd.

And indeed *Abenramin* follow'd *Pelage* at the heels; so as that he arriv'd at *Gixa* before the fire was quite extinguish'd. Whereupon having cross'd it without making any stay, that he might endeavour to overtake *Pelage*, he found him posted at the same Place

K

where

where General *Abraham* was defeated. He found this Post too difficult to force, that he durst not undertake it, for fear of not succeeding; and contenting himself with garnishing well that frontier, he bent his march back to *Toledo* with all his Army, being ashamed at his having perform'd so little in this Expedition. He signify'd to *Tariff* all that had pass'd, while he expected his orders, which he desired he would send him; and this General signify'd to him to separate his Troops, and remain in his Government till farther order. This caus'd *Abenramin* to dismiss his Army, and seek to recreate himself after the fatigues of this War.

CHAP.

C H A P. XVIII.

*The Unhappy end of Count Julian,
of the Countess his Wife, and
of Florinda his Daughter.*

COUNT *Julian* having taken leave of the *Moorish* Generals, as has been said in the former Chapter, assembled all his Adherents, as well Relations, as those that had follow'd his Fortune; and seeing the bad condition the *Algesires*, and his other Lands were in, he went to settle himself in a very pleasant place, that is upon the back of the *Mediterranean* Sea, call'd by the *Spaniards* *Villa Vitiosa*; from whence he could give the orders necessary for the reparation of all his Houses, and the administration of the vast Estate he had. As soon as he was there arriv'd, he sent to his Wife and Daughter to come to him. They had ever made their abode at *Tangier*, waiting the event of this War; but seeing it terminated, they fail'd not to repair immediately to him.

* *Alfizar*,
Absence.

* *Alfizar*,
Destruction.
on.

Albueran,
Despair.

The Count and Countess were overjoy'd to see one another again, after so long a separation *; only *Florinda* continu'd still melancholly, whatever Careless were made her by her Father and Mother, and whatever care they both took for her Diversion. She had ever before her Eyes the ruine of her Country, the destruction * of the *Christians*; the Death, Servitude, or at least, the Misery of so many Millions of men; and when she call'd to mind that she was the occasion of so many evils, she was not capable of any joy: Above all, what gave her most anxiety, was to see her self dishonour'd, and without hopes of ever seeing her self in the Rank and Establishment she might have expected according to her condition. All this so topsy-turvy'd her mind, that at the long-run, either through the instigation of the Devil, or through a black vapour that offuscated her Brain; she mounted to the top of a Tower, where shutting the Door after her, for fear of being hinder'd from Executing what she had resolv'd on; she entreated a Governant to go seek her Father and Mother, with whom she had a mind

* *Alfizar*,
Destruction.
on.

mind to speak. And as soon as they were come, she began to speak to them from the top of the Tower, as a Person that had absolutely lost her senses; telling them, that so unfortunate a Maid as she did not deserve to live, principally being the cause of so great a Desolation *, as that of all *Spain*; and continuing such like Discourses; *My Father and Mother*, cry'd she to them, *Henceforward in memory of my misfortune, let not this City any longer be call'd Villa Vitoriosa, but Malacca; for now the worst Person that ever was, is going to dye.*

No sooner had she utter'd these last words, but that without hearing or Father or Mother, or any of those that were there, and without yielding to the Remonstrances they made her, she threw herself from off the top of that Tower; and having batter'd her self in falling, she only liv'd three days. Her Mother swoon'd away at this Spectacle, and Count *Julian* laid so to heart the misfortune of a Maiden for whom he had had so much kindness, that his imagination remaining wound-ed thereby, he thought it to be a * *Hicab*, Punishment of God: And perhaps it was

* *Ida*, the
will of
God.

* *Karatan*,
a Cancer.

was so, and that this befell him for his sins. For the Leaf of the Tree makes not any motion in the Air; and the Ant takes not a step upon the Earth but by his order *. Thus this Imagination made him lose his senses, and become mad. to that degree, that he himself Stabb'd a Ponyard into his own Breast. In a little time also after his Death, the Countess his Wife fell sick of a Cancer*; and after having undergone inconceivable pains, she dy'd at last of a Natural, but a very grievous Death.

As they left no Legitimate Children, *Almanzor* took Possession of his Lordships, and Re-united them to the Crown of *Spain*. This Death prov'd a great scandal, both among the *Christians* and *Moors*; and that Town is call'd *Malaca*, on occasion of the last words *Florinda* utter'd at her dying, when she threw her self off from the top of the Tower. The *Spaniards* say *Malaga* in lieu of *Malaca*; and this word is made of the two she was heard to utter at her Death; for she said, Let this Town be no longer call'd by its ancient name, but let it be call'd *Malaca*, said she, that is to say Wicked; because in it this

this Day dyes the most Wicked Creature in the World.

The *Arabs* call this *Florinda*, as also *la Cava*, which signifies Wicked; and certain it is, that tho this Count had serv'd *Almanzor* with great Fidelity, yet was he a Traytor to his King and Country. For which reason, Wife and Vertuous Men ought to have a care of those sort of People that are ever cover'd with Infamy*, and that were never seen to come to a good end, but like to that of this Count, and of all his Adherents.

* *Eufabaca*,
Infamous
People.

CHAP. XIX.

Muca being vex'd that Almanzor did not send for him as well as Tariff, dispatches his Brother to him with the Description of all Spain.

M*uca* was very much vex'd that he had not been sent for to Court as well as *Tariff*, and would willingly have been present at the Relation that Captain was to make to *Almanzor*, of the particulars of all that War, and of the state he had left all things in, in *Spain*; fearing that in giving the Account all alone, he would attribute the whole Glory to himself. He fancy'd he had done him some ill Office in the Letter he had written to their Monarch, since he did him not the Honour to desire to see him, no more than if he had not had the least share in the Conquest they had made together; wherein *Muca* was very much

much deceiv'd; for *Tariff* spoke of him as his Friend, as well in his absence as his presence; and he since found it plainly by the Letter, whose Tenour I am going to insert.

He fancy'd he had render'd as great Services as *Tariff*, and that he had not only had all the Principal Direction, but that he had served in his own Person, and expos'd his Life to a thousand Dangers. Nevertheless, he plainly saw that it might befall him, what commonly befalls those that are distanc'd from the Court; and that, instead of receiving a Recompence * proportionable to his Services, he might, per-chance, be put out of his Masters favour. * Socr, Recom-pence.

Labouring under this anxiety, he knew not what course to take; for to leave his Government, and repair to Court without Permission, that could not be; to stay, and not go thither, was a hazarding his Fortune, and an exposing himself to all the lashes of Envy and Jealousie. At length, having unbosom'd his Heart to some of his Friends, they found a medium betwixt these two Parties, which was, to send his Brother *Ismael* to Court, under colour

* *Hasrit*,
Description.

colour of carrying the *Caliph* a Description * of the Land they had subdu'd, and a state of all things that concern'd the War. But indeed there to value and improve his Services, and fathom if the Emperor did him Justice. Now these are the terms of his Letter, in form of Relation.

A Letter from *Muca*, Vice-roy of *Africa*, to *Caliph Almanzor*, Emperour of the *Arabians*.

PRaise be first given to God, the Sovereign Creator of all things, Amen; and then to the most high and most Illustrious Caliph, the Buckler of God, the Defender of his Law, and Emperour of the Arabians, the Emir Mumenin Almanzor; to whom God give a long and happy Life, and a flourishing and quiet Reign; as is wish'd him by the least, but the most Faithful of his Subjects, *Muca*, Vice-roy of his Realms of *Africa*: Who makes known to You, as he is thereunto oblig'd, that most of those that inhabit them, are happier than ever they were; being return'd

Rich

Rich with the Spoils they have brought from Spain; as must, doubtless, have been told you, by one of your most Valiant Captains and Loyal Subjects, *Tariff Abenziet*; who Expos'd his Life a Thousand times for the augmentation of your Crown, in this Conquest. This I can better testify than any Body, having been in most Actions with him, as I thought it my Duty. I did not content my self with providing the two Armies by Land and Sea, with what was necessary for them *, * *Tachi al-mari*, Provision of all. to take all the trouble of them, and be at all the Charges; the zeal I have ever for your Service, made me pass over thither with a third Army: And since I entred into that Country, which is a Peninsula in respect of us, I have carefully observ'd all I have seen, and took a very exact Information, as well of the Christians, as the Renegadoes of that Country; of its Situation, and of the manner of living of its Inhabitants. I thought you would pardon me the freedom of sending a Relation of it a little long, but true.

The

The Relation.

Irtisab,
Climate.

THIS Island is Scituated under the Elevation of the *Artique* Pole, from the Thirtieth to the Fiftieth Degree, on the *North* of those Kingdoms of *Africa*, that are under my Government; and which are severed from it partly by the *Mediterranean* Sea, and partly by the great *Ocean*.

All this Country that we have Conquer'd, contains about Eighteen Hundred Miles in Circumference; and stretches out into a Length, representing the Figure of an Animal. The Climate is exempt from bad Vapours; the Air is there ever Serene and refresh'd by the Winds, which occasions the People to be long Liv'd and very Healthful; the Plains are water'd with an Infinity of Springs that fall from the Rocks, whose Water is very subtile and well tasted. All these Waters collected from space to space, from Noble Rivers, the most of which have their Course towards the *West*, and so go and disembogue themselves into the *Ocean*, tho there are some that fall into the *Mediterranean* Sea; and all of them furnish the People with a World of Fish of a very

very good Taste, and not Unhealthful. We see no Serpents there, nor any Wild Beasts; there are no Leopards nor Lyons, Ounces or Griffins: And when any of those Creatures have been sometimes brought thither from other Countries, they could not live. This occasions the Country to be very Populous, and that there are neither Lands nor Mountains altogether uninhabited *. Besides this, there are all sorts of Fruits, as well in Winter as Summer; there being so many Trees in the Gardens, that they seem to be Forrests, and such Delicious Places, as seem to be a Terrestrial Paradise. In Summer, there is a vast abundance of all sort of Meat, by means of the great abundance of Pasturages; where an infinity of Cattel is ever found, and a great quantity of all sorts of Wild and Tame Birds, that even come to Winter there from several Countries, as one more Temperate.

The People, as well Men as Women, are of a middle stature *; and the Cities observe an Excellent Policy. The Inhabitants are all Cloath'd in very Fine Woollen, are naturally Wise, and being addicted to War, they are curious of Horses,

Horses, and have such as are very Vigorous. The Soyl produces good Bread and excellent Wine, and so great a quantity of Oyl, that there is rather too much than too little. There grows all sorts of Herbs and Pulse; and particularly, all Simples as are needful in Physick. They gather there Silk and Linnen in abundance, of which they make very fine Stuffs. There are Mines of Silver, of Copper, of Lead, of Iron, and Quick-silver: For as for Gold, I have not heard there was any. As there are many different Nations, there are also several sorts of Tongues, that have not any Relation with ours.

* *Tabcim*,
Divided.

This *Peninsula* confines upon *France* on the *North*, and is * separated thence by very high and very rugged Mountains, by them call'd the *Pyrenees*. We pass'd them, *Tariff* and I, in the Head of your Armies; but we thought that it became us not to undertake the Conquest of another Kingdom than that of *Spain*, without your Permission: After having entred pretty far into the Country, we Retired again, without having lost any of our Men.

I end in telling you, That this Country is full of all sorts of Riches, and that there is wherewithal to live very pleasantly, and with all sorts of Conveniences: Congratulating you for so many, and such happy successses, which I only inform you of in the Bulk, leaving the particulars to *Tariff*, who will give you an Account of all that is not in this Letter; relieve me in the faults I have therein committed, and with your Celcitude's leave, will here find assurances of my Friendship; praying God that he would assist you in all things with his Grace.

From the Palace of *Morocco* in *Africa*,
the 3d of the Moon *Dulquesita**, * This is
the Year 94.

* This is
in the
month of
November,
in the
Year 715
of our
Lord.

Ismael with this his Brothers dispatch, being Shipp'd in a very light Barque, for the making the more haste; in a little time arriv'd in *Arabia*, and presented his Letter to *Almanzor*: This great Prince, tho sufficiently inform'd of all those Affairs of *Spain*, did nevertheless express much joy at his receiving Testimonies of the care *Muca* took of all things that related to his Service; and to shew the value he had for

for him, he commanded his Brother to stay with him until farther order.

Ismael sent immediately a Courier to his Brother, to signify to him the manner of his Reception.

This was a great Consolation to *Myca*, he taking the order the Emperor had given his Brother to attend upon his Person, as a good Augure. This Mighty Prince having assembled the Principal Lords of his Empire, and conferr'd with them, and particularly with *Tariff*, upon all matters; the Result of this Council was to send *Ismael*, as Ambassadour, to the King of *Thunis*, to condole with him the Death of the Prince his Son, thank him for the Succours he had given him in that War, that had more than a little contributed to the Conquest of *Spain*; and to demand in Marriage his Daughter, call'd *Omahair*, for *Abilgualit Abinacer*, his Eldest Son, and Heir to all his Kingdoms.

Ismael, very well satisfied with being chosen for so Noble an Employ, departed with an Magnificent Equipage; a very Noble Train, and a great number of Martial Men, as well for his Guard as for the Dignity of his Embassy.

bassy. He was very welcome at *Thunis*, and had immediate Audience of *Mahomet*; to whom he gave the *Caliph's*, his Masters Letter, and the Presents he had brought. He was highly entertain'd by that Prince; who having agreed to the Proposal, and having examin'd it with the Principal of his Council, this Match was found advantageous for the State, and suitable for the Princess *Omahair*; and for this reason, he with all Expedition dispatch'd away *Ismael* with an Answer as favourable as the *Valid* could desire it; as it is easy to see by the Letter and Answer.

A Letter from *Valid*, to the King of *Thunis*.

Praise be to God, Amen.

THE most High, and most Puissant Caliph Valid Almanzor, Emperor of the Arabians, to the most Wise, and most Potent King of the Moors, Grand Justiciar, Warriour, Martial, and Defender of the Law of God, Mahomet Gilhair, Greeting with all sort of Tenderness and Amity,

* Gayan,
Extraor-
dinary
Grief.

* Cada,
Fatality.

ty. I am under great Obligations of im-
parting to you the happy Event of the
Enterprize I made upon the Kingdom of
Spain, since you had so great a share
therein, by the Succours you gave me for
the Conquering of it. But the Death of
Prince Gilhair your Son *, has much di-
minish'd the joy I should have had; and
I have only to represent to you on this
Occasion, that since it has pleas'd Desti-
ny *, or rather the Providence of our
Great God, so to ordain by one of his
Decrees, conceiv'd from the knowledge of
men, and reserv'd to his Eternal Science:
There is only Suffering with Patience the
Evils he sends us; and praise him in the
mean while for the Benefits we daily re-
ceive from him. For which reason I shall
say no more to you upon this, resting satis-
fied with shewing you how much I interest
my self in all that concerns you, through
the peculiar Esteem I have of your Virtue,
through the acknowledgment I ought to
have of all the Benefits I have receiv'd
from you, and the Amity you have ever
had for me, as your Good Relation: And
through a thousand other Reasons, which
Hmael the Bearer of this Letter will tell
you; whom I desire you to afford entire
Credence, as to the Proposals he shall
make

make you in my Name, that I shall reckon
my self happy, can they but Succeed as
well as all your Designs; for which I pray
God with all my Heart.

From our Palace of Carbal *, the 4th. of the Moon of Babeth, the 2^d. day of the Year 94.

* This is
in the
month of
April, in
the Year
716 of
our Lord.

The King of Thunis's Answer.

Praise be to God the Creator of
all things; to whom alone is due
Sacrifice and Prayer.

THE Generous King of the Moors,
the Exalter of the Law of God,
and Extirper of his Enemies, Mahomet
Gilhair; to the most Honour'd, most
Noble, most Wise, most Prudent, and
most Potent Emperour of the Arabians,
Valid Almanzor; to whom the Great
God give a Long and Happy Life, as well
as to all his Servants: Health. I am
oblig'd to you for imparting to me the
happy success of the Conquest of Spain,
which has afforded great joy; and still
more at the Proposal that has been made
L 2 me

me in your name, according to the *Credentials* you sent me. To which I have no other answer to make, but that I shall esteem my self very *Happy*, that all you express your self desirous of, be treated and accomplish'd in such manner as you shall please to order; as a thing that absolutely depends on you. I pray God to take you into his keeping.

* This is in the month of July, in the year 716 of our Lord.

From our Palace Royal of *Thunis* *, the 11th of the Moon of *Rageb*, in the year 95.

Ismael was very much pleas'd to carry back so favourable an Answer as this into *Arabia*, where he had a kind Reception made him by *Almanzor* and all his Court. The happy issue of this Embassy, occasion'd the *Caliph* to give him the Office of * *Algouazil*; being one of the Chief of his State that fell vacant after his Return, and made him at the same time incur a great deal of Envy.

* The Office of *Algouazil* among the Moors, was as that of President of *Castile*.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

Adilbar went to invest the City of *Hispalis* with his Army, but is constrain'd to raise the Siege, and return to *Cordoua*.

WHEN that General *Tariff* and the Vice-roy *Muca* had repass'd the Sea, before they began their Voyage, the one into the *East*, according to *Almanzor's* orders, and the other into the *West*, to his Palace of *Morocco*, where his Brother *Ismael* expected him; they caus'd Proclamation * to be made throughout all *Africa*, in the name of the Emperour their Master; That all those that were minded to pass into *Spain*, there to inhabit, needed only to repair thither; and that they should have Lands given them to cultivate, Houses to dwell in, with all the conveniences necessary to Life; and great Priviledges and Exemptions. These Promises, and the rumour of the Beauty

* *Boreb*
Acotcan,
a publick
cry by
found of
Trumpet.

L 3

of

This is
the second
time that
the Jews
came into
Spain.

of the Country, caus'd a world of People to pass the Sea ; not only Natural Moors, but Jews of the Hebrew Nation, who pass'd it with their Wives and Children, and all the Goods they had, to the number of fifty thousand Families, according to the Register taken of 'em by *Adilbar*.

This Vice-roy, by an exprefs order he had receiv'd from *Almanzor*, of repopulating that great Kingdom, which he had confided to his Conduct, distributed with an admirable oeconomy, throughout the Kingdom of *Spain* these new *Spaniards*, according as they landed. The Governours, and Subordinate Commanders, gave afterwards in the Provinces and Cities, to each of those Families, Conquer'd Lands, proportionably as they were convenient for 'em to live in, whereof he made particular Estates. And they had all so great an application to this matter; and kept such good order, that this great extent of Land became in a short space more populous, and more cultivated, than it had ever been before ; and the new comers were so well accustomed with the Natives of the Country, that there seem'd not to be any difference among

'em,

'em, nor as if any change had there happen'd.

Adilbar seeing so numerous a People under his sway, and all the particular Governours so obedient to his will *, *Mulhyin*, thought himself in a posture to make some attempt for the service of his Master. He remembred that they had not dared to attack *Hispalis*, by reason of the Pestilence that raged there when the Generals went away ; and had informations that the *Christians* flocked thither from all parts, since its ceasing. For which reason, having assembled the greatest number he could of Infantry and Cavalry, and made a Body of twelve thousand Foot, and two thousand Horse ; he departed from *Cordoua*, after having given all the Directions requisite, and march'd directly to *Hispalis* in the head of this Army ; small indeed, but very brave, and provided with all things necessary *. He straight-
* *Mula*
* *Qualin*,
well ap-
pointed.

ways sent a Trumpeter to Summons the Inhabitants to Surrender, promising them all sort of good usage, as Generals of Armies are wont to do in such occasions.

The Inhabitants, without listening to his Promises, or being concern'd at his

L 4

Threats,

Threats, made no other answer, but that they were resolv'd to defend the goodness of their Cause to the last; and to be cut all in pieces, rather than fall under Slavery.

After such an Answer, *Adilbar* thought there was no farther parlying. On the morrow morning, he caus'd a most furious Assault to be made: But as the Besieged were well inform'd of the manner with which the *Moors* had perform'd the Sieges of all the other Towns of *Spain*, they had made Provision of a world of Posts of several fashions, which they fill'd with boyling Oyl, *Juniper* and *Turpentine*, and threw them upon the Besiegers; which burnt them alive, and incapacitated them from fighting, by reason of the violence of the pain they suffer'd.

Farica.

Adilbar confus'd and vex'd at the damage his men had receiv'd from the Beleaguer'd, without its being in his Power to do them any, caus'd the Retreat to be sounded, and his Troops put into Quarters, to see what he had to do: He had lost four hundred men in this first Assault, and plainly perceiv'd, that as often as he employ'd force, there would be nothing to be got.

got. Wherefore he imagin'd, that being Master of the Field, and having Victuals abundance in his Army, whose subsistence he could furnish to as long as he pleas'd, in the Neighbourhood of that Town, he could so well block up the Avenues, that it should be constrain'd to Surrender, without his so much as losing one man; he resolv'd not to decamp thence till he had famish'd it.

The Beleaguer'd guessing that the *Moors* had taken this course, since they had remained five and twenty days together, without continuing their attacks; they resolv'd to Sally out upon them, when as they least expected it. For this purpose, without making any Bustle, as could make the Besiegers suspect their Design, they assembled all their resolute* men; And one Night, ^{*Inzi, Hachi, Resolution.} Sallying out of one of their Gates, they fell with much vigour upon *Adilbar's* Camp.

The *Moors* defended themselves with great Resolution, but believing the number of their Enemies still greater than it was, in the darkness that hinder'd them from viewing one another, they betook themselves to flight*, and ^{*Fazar, a Rout.} the *Christians* made a great slaughter of them.

them. To avoid the inconveniences that commonly happen in Engagements that are perform'd by Night, the Governour had order'd all those that were commanded out upon that Sally, to cease fighting, and retire into the Town, as soon as he should cause a Horn to be sounded; whose sound he had caus'd them to observe. Thus fearing they might engage too far on the pursuit of the *Moors*, who might cut them off, he caus'd it to be sounded, when he judg'd it convenient.

The *Christians* had much ado to resolve upon quitting the Engagement, being very much flesh'd by the *Moors*, who gave way before them on all sides, and were pursu'd by them with the Sword in their Reins: But at the long run, retiring by little and little, in the order that had been prescrib'd them, they re-entred the Town, where they were receiv'd with great Applauses, by the Beleaguer'd; who caus'd a world of Musical Instruments to be sounded, in token of Joy for so great a Victory.

The Day being come, the slaughter the *Christians* had made appear'd to *Adilbar* much greater than he had believ'd it: And perceiving the strength of

of this Town, and the Valour of those that defended it, he found it more convenient to raise the Siege, than to persist any longer obstinately in an Enterprize, which was more difficult than he had imagin'd. Whereupon he took his march back to *Cordoua*; and having found his Army diminish'd in two thousand Foot, and two hundred Horse, he had lost in this Siege, he separated it, and put it into good Quarters in the Country, that it might recover it self.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXI.

Adilbar makes a second Attempt upon Hispalis, and is as Successful as before.

* *Hird,*
Murmur,
Scandal.

A Dilbar was disconsolate at the bad event of the first Enterprize he had made for the *Valid's* Service : He was asham'd that the only Town the *Christians* held in *Spain*, had resisted him, after *Tariff*, with so little pains, had taken all the rest. He imagin'd all the *Moors* * murmur'd at it, and himself found that *Almanzor* could not effectually call himself absolute Master of that Country, as long as that Town was not under his Obedience.

Wherefore having sent for all the Governours of those Provinces, and conferred with them about the necessity, and the means for the reducing it ; he began to make greater Preparations than he had yet done ; and having assembled fifteen

fifteen thousand Foot, and fifteen hundred Horse, he took the Field in the beginning of the Spring *, of the 95th * *Fael Arabeh,* Year of the *Hegira*, and march'd directly to *Hispalis* ; in the Neighbourhood whereof, he lodg'd all his Troops.

The tryal he had made in the first Siege, of the Valour and Industry of the Beleaguer'd, which had made him break up from thence, without having effected the least, had render'd him wise ; and as he was a good * Com- * *Harbal Abidad,* mander, he had caus'd certain Chariots to be made, cover'd with very thick Boards, that so his Souldiers might, as under cover, fight shelter'd, without any inconvenience from the Boiling Oyl, and all the other things, that the *Christians* might throw from off their Walls.

After having begun, by Summoning the Town again to Surrender, and receiv'd thence as haughty an Answer as that he had before, he caus'd his cover'd Chariots to advance, with a multitude of Pioneers, sustained by a good number of Souldiers, that he had plac'd underneath ; and having brought them near the Courtin, he had it undetermin'd

dermin'd in the Places he judg'd to be the weakest.

The Beleaguer'd seeing these Machines, and dreading the effect of them, assembled to consult about the most proper means to secure themselves from so great a danger. Their Governour, call'd *Sarmato*, being a Man of Wit and Resolution, let them see that there was no occasion for them to be alarm'd as they were, and caus'd them to separate into three Brigades, that they might the more easily sustain the three different Attacks.

Adilbar had not omitted any one of the Precautions he could imagine, against all that the Beleaguer'd could invent for their defence; and as he had caus'd to be made a kind of great Stone-Bows*, with which they shot up very great Stones, he pointed them to the places where they could do most mischief; and making 'em mount upon his Chariots, he caus'd so great a quantity of 'em to be thrown, that few places were there in the City, where the *Christians* could be in safety.

Sarmato seeing so many extraordinary means employ'd to attack him, fell on his

side

side also to the contriving some for his Defence; and having caus'd the strongest of the Inhabitants to assemble, with fitting Instruments for the removing the Earth, he caus'd Ramparts to be rais'd, behind and within the Walls, that when even the *Moors* should have effected the making some Breaches therein, they might find 'em stopt with so much Earth, as that it would be impossible for them to enter 'em. This wise Governour, by this Precaution, put himself in a posture of receiving no damage from all the Inventions of his Enemies: For there was already so much Earth behind the Wall, that when they had broken it, they would find they had got nothing by the bargain: Nay, and many had been crush'd to pieces by the great Stones the *Christians* roll'd upon those Chariots: And as for those the *Moors* caus'd to be thrown into the Town, as there stood Sentinels on the top of the Towers, to give the Signal to the Inhabitants to make their escape, when they saw any coming, most commonly all their Machines were fruitless.

Adilbar being in Despondency at so many ill successes, resolv'd upon giving

*The Arabs
call them
Mausenech.

a general Assault. While he was preparing all his Forces for that purpose, and that the Scaling, Ladders were erected on one side, he caus'd his Chariots to take a great circuit towards the other end of the City, for the undermining the Wall at the same time. Whereupon, having given the Signal for the attack, at break of day, which he had chosen for that intent, the Besiegers went on with an extraordinary fury, and the Besieged sustain'd it with great resolution.

The *Moors* in the mean while, having again chang'd their Chariots, and fastening upon part of the Wall that was weaker than the rest, made a great Breach, by which some enter'd the Town; but *Sarmato* repairing in all hast thither, with a great many Soldiers, left them there not long; and having drove them thence, caus'd that gap to be stopt up with a great quantity of Earth: Certain it is, the Town had been taken, had he delay'd one moment longer; but the Night having put an end to the Conflict, *Adilbar* found he had lost five hundred men, whereas the Besieged had lost but two hundred.

hundred: So great an opposition made him take up again the Resolution he took the time before, of stopping up all the Avenues of the Town, that so the *Christians*, being press'd by hunger and thirst, might be constrain'd to Surrender. He remain'd there in this manner forty five days, after which, *Sarmato* considering that *Adilbar* might hold him block'd up in this manner, as much, and as long as he pleas'd, being Master of the Field, from whence he might have all sorts of Refreshments; he resolv'd upon going to attack him in his Camp, as he had done the time before.

Wherefore having assembled twelve hundred Foot, choice men, and a hundred Horse, he caus'd them to Sally out at Mid-night, through a Postern-gate of the Town. The *Moors* having seen the *Christians* had been so long without fighting, did not expect this sudden Assault at all: By this means the *Christians* kill'd a very great number of them, and retired in good order, by favour of the night. *Adilbar* fearing the like accident to that which befell him in the former Siege, sent a part of his Horse to stop the Soldiers

diers that were minded to pursue them; insomuch, that he found the next day that he had lost four hundred Foot, and thirty Horse, whereas there fell not above a hundred and fifty of the *Christians*, whom this General caus'd to be Interr'd as well as the *Moors*, for fear of their creating an Infection in his Camp.

The Besieged were much satisfy'd with the success of this second Sally; but in a short time after, *Adilbar* caus'd a second assault to be made, which was so furious, that whatever resistance they made, the *Moors* at length gain'd a Courtine. The Governour flying thither forthwith with a reinforcement of Souldiers, perform'd so well, that he at last drove the *Moors* again from their Post, and put it into a posture of Defence. This Conflict lasted from break of day, till Three of the Clock in the * Afternoon; when *Adilbar* seeing his men disheartened, caus'd a Retreat to be sounded, to dress the wounded. He found among the Dead three hundred *Moors*, and about a hundred and fifty *Christians*; but there was a very great number wounded; and among others, one of his

* This time is call'd *Hazir* in *Arabic*.

his Officers, called *Hali Abenzainee*, which afflicted him very much, and whom he caus'd carefully to be dress'd, as well as all the rest; confirming himself in the first Resolution he had taken, of having the Town by Famine.

The Besieged fearing to want Victuals, that they might precaution themselves before-hand, with the remedies necessary against the mischief wherewith they were threatned, had caus'd very deep * Canals to be made, from the *Western Gate* of their Town to a *great River*, that passing very near their Walls, falls afterwards into the Sea. By the means of these Canals, they went into the River with great Boats; and these Canals being Fortify'd all along with good Trenches, insomuch that the Cavalry could not do them any mischief, there came to them, from time to time, Victuals from the Mountains of a certain Country, call'd *Biscaya*: These Canals were a very great help to the Besieged; for besides their having by this means all things brought them, the Water of the River serv'd them for a thousand conveniences.

Adilbar having not then any Ships to hinder the *Christians* from having every moment all necessaries, was very much at a loss, and was loath to resolve upon raising the Siege once again: When news was brought him of the revolt of the Governour of *Valence*, call'd *Abubaber el Handali*, and of the Inroads he made into the Neighbouring Provinces of that Kingdom.

So urgent an evil, and which he saw himself indispensably oblig'd forthwith to remedy, made him presently raise the Siege, and march long days journeys to *Cordoua*; which the *Christians* of *Hispalis* were very glad of.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXII.

Adilbar goes to Valence, defeats the Governour of that Province and has him Beheaded.

THE great Siege, wherein *Abubaber el Handali*, Governour of *Valence*, saw *Adilbar* engag'd in, had made him hope that he might in that time, render himself absolute Master of that fine Province. In this Design, having gain'd all the Governours of the smaller Cities, and all the Martial Men under his Authority, he would needs cast off the *Valid's* Oath; and having brought a small Army on Foot, he began to make Incursions into the Neighbourhood, that he might by force oblige all the People thereabouts to obey him as their Sovereign Lord.

Adilbar being inform'd of these Transactions, as I said in the foregoing Chapter; caus'd a new Army to assemble, of ten thousand Foot, and

eight hundred Horse; and with these Forces, crossing the high Mountains that are on the *South*, he arriv'd at the City of *Murcia*; to whose foot extends the Government of *Valence*: *Abraham Escaladari* was then Governour of the Place, who being inform'd of *Adilbar's* march against *Abubaber*, had got ready a Magazine of Provisions, to distribute them, as he did among his Souldiers: And having join'd him with all the men he had, they two march'd together toward *Valence*.

The Rebel seeing so great an Army coming against him, and having no place of safety whether to Retire, thought it much better to try the fortune of a Battel, and win it, or dye like a Man of Courage, than go basely yield himself up. Having inspired the same resolution into the minds of his Adherents, and dispos'd them into the best order he could, as soon as *Adilbar* had set footing in his Government, he went to meet him; and in that Battel, did all that could be done by a good General, and good Souldier; but being at last taken, and all his men defeated, *Adilbar* caus'd his Head to be struck

struck off, and had it set on the top of a Lance, on the Gate of that Town, which he gave for Plunder to his Souldiers.

He made a strict scrutiny after all those that had had a hand in this Rebellion, that he might of them accordingly make an Exemplary Punishment: And indeed, many Commanders and Captains had the same Fate with their Leader; and after having reduc'd that Country to its Obedience, and there establish'd one of his Captains, call'd *Mahomet Abenbucar*, he return'd to *Cordoua*, and dismissed his Troops.

C H A P. XXIII.

Almanzor gives Tariff a place in his Council, and chooses him for his Ambassadour Extraordinary, for the Conclusion of the Prince his Sons Match, with the King of Thunis's Daughter.

*Mutagua
Quilatri-
aca, Ali-
nister of
State.

Almanzor making reflection on the great Services render'd him by General Tariff, on all occasions, and particularly in the Conquest of the Kingdom of Spain; for the discharging himself of the Obligation he had to him of so great an augmentation of Empire, and of such vast Riches he had thence deriv'd, had not a more Glorious Recompence to give him, than a place among those of his Council *, and who share in the administration of all his Kingdoms; for which account he put him into that number, and

and nominated him Ambassadour Extraordinary, to go conclude the Princes Match, and fetch away the Princess of *Thunis*. He caus'd a Fleet of forty Ships to be fitted out for that purpose, with all the Magnificence requisite for so solemn an Embassy, and which was undertaken for so agreeable an end. Tariff being embark'd with a world of Courtiers, and a good number of Souldiers, arriv'd safe at *Thunis*, where he was receiv'd and entertain'd with all his People, as well as heart could wish; and after having made a very short abode there, he went on Board his Ships again, with the Princess *Omalahaire*, and all her Train, and return'd into the *Levant* with a very fair wind.

The *Infanta* being arriv'd in *Arabia*, the Nuptials were Celebrated with great Pomp; and there were Turnaments, Tilting, and all the other merriments that are wont to attend those sort of Festivals.

Almanzor seeing his Son Marry'd, and finding him at an age to govern his State himself, thought it to be now time to Execute a design he had long meditated, of discharging himself of that

that heavy burden, he had for so many years born upon his Head ; finding also that his Old Age, caus'd him by little and little, to sink under the weight of it : For which reason, seeing himself worn out, and attack'd with many Infirmities, he resolv'd upon devolving it upon that of his Son, that so he might retire into a House of Pleasure, he had caus'd to be built in a Mountain, where he had very pleasant Gardens, very thick Woods, and excellent Waters. Whereupon having caus'd the States to assemble, where it was his Pleasure to have all the Governours of the Provinces present, he imparted to them the Dimission he meant to make of the Empire, in favour of his Son; and at the same time, caus'd the following Letters Patents to be expedited.

Letters

Letters Patents,

Of *Almanzor's* Demission in favour of his Son.

Praise and Glory be given to that Great God, the Creator of all things, Amen.

THE most High, the most Noble, Luna amis
the most Dread Lord and Empe- Abibabdi
rour of the Arabs, Valid Almanzor; Allahi,
Vicar of God, and Protector of his Law, that signifies the Fa-
Son of the most Noble, and most Honour'd ther of
Lord; and Martial; Warriour, Caliph, the Ser-
and Emperour of the Arabs; Father of vants of
the Servants of God, and exalter of his God; and
Law, Abdulmelech, Son of Victory. Ibninacer,
intimating
the Son
of Victo-
ry.

Considering the Necessity we are reduc'd to, by the Infirmities with which it hath pleas'd God, our Sovereign Lord, to visit *us; and the decrepit Age wherewith Nature is wont to over-whelm all men in the order of times; which occasions our being not strong enough to govern so great an Empire, as we have done in time past: for the settle-
ment

* Ziara,
Regale.

ment of our Crown, the Peace and Tranquillity of the State, and the greatest Good and Utility of our Subjects; and to hinder the Dissentions and Discords that commonly happen after the Death of Kings, which are wont to overturn the best establish'd Empires; and for other Considerations, us thereunto moving; we have thought convenient to Renounce, Grant and Transport, by these Presents *, all the Sovereign Authority that we have, with the Scepter and Crown we bear, in such manner as it appertains to us, in Quality of Caliph, Absolute and Sovereign Lord, without acknowledging any Person living for Superiour in Temporal; to our Well Beloved, and Obedient Son, the Wise, Virtuous, and accomplish'd Aboulvalid Abenacer, our eldest Son, Lawful Heir, and nearest Successour; on whom may God bestow the Wisdom necessary for the Governing all his Kingdoms, in such manner, as that all his Subjects may enjoy a continual Peace and Tranquillity, by reserving to us the direct Siegneury, in case of Death, or failure of Succession, or any other such like misfortune, or disgrace; which we pray God not to suffer to make way for our returning to the Throne, to which we no longer pretend any Right.

For

* Dahir,
Patents.

For which reason, We signifie and order to our well-beloved Son, and Lawful Heir and Successor in the second Degree, the Prince Abraham Amcari, and to all those of our Council of State and of War, and to all the Governours, Cadis, Generals and Captains; and to all, and as many as there are of our Officers and Subjects, of what Quality and Condition soever they be, to hold and Honour, as Emperour of all these Kingdoms, our said Son Aboulvalid Abenacer; and in that Quality, make Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to him, as from this present we mean to make to him our selves, acknowledging him for King, and giving him all the Power we have hitherto had, according to the Laws, commanding expressly all our Subjects * to * Alamyid, obey his Commands, and Execute all his People. Orders, as if they were issued out by us, on pain not only of our Malediction, but of that of God, of his anger, as they must needs all incur that want Fidelity to their King; and for a token of the effectual Possession of all that is contain'd in these Presents, we mean to put them our selves into his hand, in the presence of all the Governours and Subjects, assembled in our Palace for that purpose. For such is our Express determinate Will and Pleasure;

to

to which end, we have our selves sign'd these Presents with our hand, and have caus'd our Great Seal to be put there-to.

* Beginning of the month of October, in the year 716 of our Lord.

In our Palace of *Corbal*, in *Arabia Fælix* *, the 3d. of the Moon de *Vaguel*, in the Year 95.

By the means of this Renunciation, *Aboulvalid Abenacer* being acknowledg'd and Crown'd King, his Father *Almanzor* took a chosen number of his most Faithful and most Ancient Domesticks, to attend and serve him in the Place he had resolv'd upon making his Retreat, leaving his Youngest Son *Abraham Amcari*, with the King, his Eldest; and no sooner was he arriv'd in that Solitude, but that his Infirmities daily augmenting, he fell into an ill Distemper, which lasted upon him till Death, which, in short, fell out in a little time after.

Abraham had a haughty Spirit, and immense Ambition; the *Caliph* being very jealous of him, and uneasie on his score, that he might deprive him of the means of fomenting Cabals against him, sent him into Stony *Arabia*, which is

is a Country of very small extent; and where he could not find wherewithal to do him any great mischief.

About that time the Governour of *Damas*, *Abenbukar* by name, who all his life long had had roving and Chimerical thoughts, imagin'd that *Almanzor* being no longer in the World, he might attempt all with impunity. He thought of no less than of dispossessing *Aboulvalid*, and of placing himself in his stead; and had assembled a great Army, with which he ravag'd all the Provinces bordering upon his Government. The *Caliph* was also oblig'd on his side to take the Field, to bring him to his Duty; when that Prince *Abraham Amcari*, who was continually gnaw'd with the lust of Reigning, and omitting nothing he judg'd useful to his Designs *, found it to be the most propitious juncture he could wish, for the manifesting them to the World. Whereupon he on his side assembled the most Horse and Foot that was possible for him; and after having pass'd the Desarts of *Arabia* *, he march'd directly to Court with all his forces, making semblance of coming to his Brothers assistance against *Abenbukar* the Rebel.

And

* *Albadar*, lost no occasion.

* *Alcabari*, Sandy Mountains.

And accordingly he met with a kind welcome at first; but having all on the sudden changed face, and having seiz'd on the Castle, and the best Gates of the City, about midnight he sent to seize on the principal persons of the Court, as well Officers as people of Service, whom he thought Loyal to his Brother, and had 'em all beheaded. This so intimidated all the rest, that either out of the fear they had of him, or by reason of the little affection they bore the King, and the esteem they had for this Prince, whom they saw to be brave and generous, and love War*, they were easily inclin'd to acknowledge him for their King; nay, and there was so great a concourse of People at his Coronation, that meaning to improve that first heat he saw them in, and not thinking it convenient to let it cool again, he took the Field with all those that suffer'd themselves to espouse his Party. His Brother *Aboulvalid* was gone at the head of his Forces against *Abenbukar*; wherefore he thought he could easily pen him up, between his own Army, and that of that Rebel. And after having left at Court a Captain, a Creature of his, call'd *Xaira Alxadali*, in whom he

* *Ymala*,
to win
hearts.

he put entire confidence, he march'd directly to his Brother with all his Troops; which he found to make up twenty thousand Foot, and fifteen hundred Horse.

The King was so surpriz'd at this News*, that he was ready to run mad; and to see if he could apply some remedy to so great and un-foreseen an Evil, he quitted the design of reducing *Abenbukar*, to return with all expedition to meet his Brother.

The two Armies being in sight of one another, *Aboulvalid* sent a man on purpose to *Abraham*, to divert him from so unjust and unreasonable an Enterprize; and representing to him that he was going to be the occasion of the Death of an infinite number of men, which could be only imputed to him alone; but that if he would desist from his design, he promis'd him in the word of a King, to forget all that was pass'd, and to receive him as his Friend and Brother*. *Abraham* made no other answer to this, but that he was not come thither to be reconcil'd, but to fight; that he stood in no need of the friendship he offer'd him, but of the Crown he had upon his Head; that

* *Aturmukim*, Ill
News.

* *Taha*,
obedience,
protection,
friendship.

that he was *Almanzor's* Son and Heir as well as he; that he had only to prepare to defend himself, and that their Rights being at the point of their Swords, they would that day decide which of the two had the best, giving the Kingdom to him that should gain the Victory.

Having in this manner sent back *Aboulvalid's* mediator, and having threatned to have him hang'd, if he came again to importune him with such like harrangues. The *Caliph* with grief saw himself oblig'd to give Battel; but at last, having marshall'd all his Army in Battalia, it began with some squadrons of Horse of both sides, who were a long while mingled with one another, before any judgment could be pass'd which of the two had the advantage: And this Skirmish that lasted above half the day, without any great loss on either side, plainly shew'd the Cavalry to be compos'd only of good men, that knew admirably well both to attack and defend.

On the morrow, the twelfth of the Moon *Dulquehala**, in the Year 96, the Battel was renew'd, and prov'd still more bloody for both Parties; for

* In the month of December, in the year 717.

it lasted from Morning till Noon, without ones being able to judge on which side the Victory lean'd: But at length, *Aboulvalid's* people beginning to buckle, and those of *Abraham* to break in upon them on all sides, *Aboulvalid* fearing to fall into his Brothers hands, made his escape out of the hottest of the Engagement, upon a very fleet Horse, after having made a sign to some of his people to follow him. The Kings Retreat utterly dishearten'd all his men, who were immediately after easily put * to flight.

* *Facar*,
flv. put to
rout.

The Prince pursu'd them at their heels; and after having kill'd a very great number of them, he return'd to give the necessary orders for all Occurrences, and then return against *Abenbukar*, while that *Aboulvalid* was withdrawn into the Kingdom of *Thunis*, where he was kindly receiv'd by his Father-in-Law, who knowing the misfortune that was befallen him, through the perfidy and wickedness of his Brother, comforted him the best he could, and promis'd to assist him in his revenge.

C H A P. XXIV.

*Abraham Amcary goes to fight
Abenbukar ; defeats him, and
has him beheaded.*

A *Braham* being puffed up with the winning of this Battel, and overjoy'd to see that all the paces he made, conducted him upon the Throne, without any stop, he march'd directly to Court; where having conven'd the Estates, to confirm the Government he meant to establish, he caus'd them there to take a new Oath of Allegiance to him, by which, all that he had not been able to get approv'd of, but by some, before his going to fight his Brother, was confirm'd and ratify'd by all the rest: And thus was he own'd and declar'd by a common consent, Emperour of all *Almarzor's* Realms, as his Lawful Heir.

Then having made such Regalations as he pleas'd, and bestow'd great Bounties

Bounties on all his Creatures, without losing time, he took the Field with fifteen thousand Foot, and fifteen hundred Horse, to go to *Damascus*.

Abenbukar, being fully inform'd of all these Transactions, came to meet him with an Army of twenty thousand Foot, and two thousand Horse, inasmuch, that they were not long without coming to blows. *Abraham* would needs, before he gave the Signal for Battel, do as lawful Kings do to Rebels; and sent to tell him, That as he had not any Right to the Crown, he could not believe he would persist in his bad designs, or that he would be wanting in his Allegiance to his Prince; wherefore he offer'd to Pardon him all that had pass'd, if he would but return to his Duty.

Abenbukar having caus'd the Princes Envoy to come into his presence, would not go about to excuse himself with sorry reasons, as do all Traytors that can never have any that are good; but answer'd him sharply, and like a gallant man, That between two Traytors, and two Disloyalists, as they both were, he had only the hand of him: but that *Abraham* had committed a

N 3 much

* *Nazarem*,
Subsidies.

much greater infidelity in dispossessing his Brother *Aboulvalid*, who was his Lawful King, according to the disposition of his Father, and that of Nature, than he, in withdrawing himself from his obedience, with all the Province of which he was Governour, seeing all his people oppress'd with impositions *, and very severely us'd by King *Aboulvalid*.

That he had learnt that to state things aright, Nature caus'd no body to be born upon a Throne; that all the Kings of the Earth were Tyrants; that the Scepter belong'd to him to whom God had given the strength to bear it; and the Sovereign Authority to him that had Wisdom and Ability sufficient to govern the people; and that as all Created things had their beginning, and their end, Monarchies were not exempt from this general vicissitude; that thus there was no need of reasoning any farther.

Abraham being extremely provok'd at so haughty and so insolent an Answer, would no longer defer giving Battel, contrary to the advice of most of his Officers, who counsell'd him to stay the Conjunction of all his Forces, that

that were not yet arriv'd, *Abubenkar's* Army being much stronger than his, and all his Troops appearing much more sprightly; but they could not prevail with him to change the resolution he had taken.

Some of the Cavalry that were detach'd on both sides, having began the Skirmish, they quickly engag'd in a general Battel, that was very obstinately fought, and very bloody, *Abenbukar* being skill'd in all the stratagems of War, had plac'd his best Officer in Ambuscade behind a Hill, with five hundred chosen Horse, that had order not to appear till the Battel was far engag'd, and then to attack the Princes men in the Rear; and this occasion'd *Abenbukar's* winning the Battel: For this Captain, bolting just in the nick from his Ambuscade, put all *Abraham's* Forces into such great disorder, that this Prince seeing himself penn'd up on all sides, threw himself from off his Horse, and so fled o're the Mountains, that he might get again into *Arabia*.

Abenbukar being Master of the Field of Battel, return'd to *Damascus*, loaded with Honour, and the Spoils of *Abraham's* Camp he had plunder'd; and expecting

pecting to have suddenly another Army upon his back, he did not dismiss his, but put it only into good Quarters in that Country.

Abraham, at his return, having met with a very cool reception from the *Arabians*, it spighted him extremely, and gave him great confusion. Wherefore having again conven'd the Governours and Commanders that were under his sway, he gave them to understand that he was resolv'd not to suffer *Abenbukar* to glory long in his Victory; and commanded them to make ready to take the Field in fifty days space, with all the Forces they had under their charge. They so very punctually executed this order, that at the day appointed, he found himself at the head of an Army of forty thousand Foot, and five thousand Horse; with which he march'd again for *Syria*.

Abenbukar had not slept on his side; and knowing the great preparations that were making against him, caus'd Proclamation to be made throughout all the neighbouring Countries, of large pay, and great Rewards, for all those that would come into his service, and bring him Troops: By this means
he

he fram'd a body of thirty thousand Foot, and three thousand Horse; and with these Forces staid Prince *Abraham's* coming up, who without entring into any parleys, as he had done the time before, as soon as he came in sight of *Abenbukar's* Army, he march'd directly upon him, to engage him in the Battel, that was very bloody on both sides. But at last, *Abenbukar's* Troops being defeated, he was taken generously fighting, and brought to *Abraham*, who, without saying a word to him, in the rage he was in, and without giving him time to speak, or the Executioner to come, he cut his Throat with his own hands, striking him so furious a blow with his Scimitar upon the nape of his Neck, that he cut off his Head, which he caus'd to be put on the top of a Pike, on the Gate of *Damascus*. He was not satisfy'd with having himself perform'd the Execution, for having caus'd him to be fled, he commanded the placing upon that same Gate that Wretches Skin, which he had caus'd to be fill'd with straw; and the like usage did all those meet with that had had a hand in this Rebellion. At length,
being

being grown weary of putting people to Death, and believing that Province absolutely reduc'd, and sufficiently chastiz'd, he left there as Governour, a Captain, in whom he had great confidence, call'd *Abencirix*, and return'd to recreate himself at Court, where he was receiv'd by his Partizans with great Huzzahs, and mighty Exultation.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

King Aboulvalid assembles a great Army in Africa, and marches against his Brother Abraham, gives him Battel, wherein his Brother is kill'd.

KING *Aboulvalid* being retir'd to *Thunis*, as I have before observ'd, labour'd under great anxiety to see himself drove out of his Kingdom by his own Brother, and employ'd his thoughts wholly upon the means of being reveng'd. *Mahomet Gilbair* was no less concern'd than this Unhappy Prince, considering him not barely as his Son-in-law, but as his own Son. Wherefore having resolv'd on assisting him with all his might, he made great Levies throughout the whole extent of his Kingdom, gave Commissions to all the principal Persons of his Court and Country, and fitted out a great Naval Army, which he had stor'd

stor'd with all the Provisions necessary for a great Embarkment.

Aboulvalid did not forget himself on his side, and well perceiving there was no man that could assist him more strongly in his occasions than *Muca*, Vice-roy of *Morocco*, and of all the *African* Provinces; he sent a man on purpose to him in a *Felucca*, with this Letter.

King *Aboulvalid's* Letter, to
Muca, Vice-roy of *Morocco*
and *Africa*.

Praise be to God, Amen.

THE Great and Warlike Empe-
rour of the Arabs, of the high
Lineage of *Motaleb*; Vicar of God, and
Defender of his Law; *Aboulvalid*
Abenacer; Son of the most High and
most Dread Caliph, and Emperour of
the Arabs, *Valid Almanzor*: To the
Valiant Captain, Virtuous and Accom-
plish'd Knight; Trusty and Loyal Servant
of our Royal Crown, *Muca*, our Vice-roy
in *Africa*, Greeting. *Abenbukar* Go-
vernour

vernour of *Damascus*, meaning to with-
draw himself from his Allegiance to Us,
and we having taken the Field with an
Army to chastize him, Prince *Abraham*
our Brother, taking that occasion to exe-
cute the design he long had had of trou-
bling the State, and having had the bold-
ness to take up Arms against Us, to the
great damage of our Subjects, and to
the great contempt of the Obedience to
Us owning; for which, according to all
Laws of Justice, he merits Death as well
as *Abenbukar*; and for the procuring his
punishment, and preventing the misfor-
tunes that his Rebellion may produce,
you are order'd, That as soon as you shall
have receiv'd this Letter, to cause to
assemble, with all possible diligence, the
greatest number of Troops possible, in the
extent of our Kingdom of *Africa*, and
that you cause them to embark with all
the Provisions necessary, nay, and with
all the Gold and Silver that is found in
Our Treasury of *Morocco*, all which to
be sent Us to *Thunis*, where we are at
present; further conjuring You, if You
have any one in whom You have sufficient
confidence, as to trust with him the care
of your Government, to come your self in
Person at the head of your Army, to
serve

serve Us in so urgent an occasion, and to provide for all things according to your wonted prudence, wherein We have an entire confidence.

* In January 718.

From *Thunis*, the * 14th. of the Moon of *Mahatran*, the Year 97.

Muca having with great respect receiv'd the King his Masters Letter, in a short time assembled an Army of thirty thousand Foot, and having got together all sorts of Ammunition, and fitted out a mighty Fleet, he embark'd in it himself, with the Royal Treasure he had in his keeping, finding that it could not be better employ'd than for so good an occasion, for which it was undoubtedly reserv'd: Nay, he thought himself oblig'd to quit all things, to signalize his Zeal and Fidelity in his Masters * service, and contribute thereto, not only with his Cares, but with his Person. In his room in *Africa* he left a very brave Man, and in whom he had great Confidence, call'd *Alicunicy*, a Native of *Stony Arabia*, and arriv'd safe at *Thunis* with all his Army, at the end of the Moon of *Rabeh*, on the 2 of that same year 97 of the *Hegira*.

There

There he found King *Aboulvalid* employ'd in Shipping the Troops he had got together in those parts; who embrac'd him very affectionately, and caress'd him to a high degree. This Prince had already nominated *Tariff Abenziet*, who had atchiev'd the Conquest of the Kingdom of *Spain*, in his Fathers Lifetime, *Generalissimo* of all his Forces, and had cast his Eyes upon him, as upon the greatest, and most lucky Captain of those times.

These two great Armies having been a long while in embarking, the King put at length to Sea, and with as fair a Wind as he could wish, in a few days time he arriv'd in *Arabia*; where having made a Review of all his Troops, his Army was found to be sixty five thousand Foot, and five thousand Horse, which gave him a great deal of Joy.

All the People of that Coast, seeing so numerous and so flourishing an Army, far from opposing his Descent, declar'd themselves immediately for him.

In the mean while, Prince *Abraham* knowing all his Brothers Preparations, did not sleep on his side. He had assembled all

* *Maulab*,
King and
Lord.

* *Muſſa Mahavi*,
States.

all the Chiefs * of the *Arabians*, and after having given 'em notice of the storm wherewith they were threatned, and having made them apprehend that they were to expect little less than to be strangled, if *Aboulvalid* ever re-mounted upon the Throne; and that it was much better to dye in the Bed of Honour, than upon a Scaffold, as he was resolv'd to do, to shew 'em the way. They were all so sensibly perswaded by his Arguments, that in their own Defence, they made up a very considerable Army, that was found to be sixty thousand men, got truly in the best manner they could together.

Abraham having made no difficulty to go meet his Brother with his Forces, the Battel was fought in the Plain of *Cabar*, on the 3 of the Moon *Dulquihida**, in the year 97. It lasted from Sun rising to its setting. *Abraham* then perform'd all that could be done by a great General, and a good Souldier: But seeing his Army in Disorder, he threw himself into the hottest of the Engagement, where he was kill'd with his Sword in his hand.

Aboulvalid did much lament his not having been able to take him alive; and doubt-

doubtless, as he had ever had a kindness for him, maugre all the mischief he had done him, he would have given him his life, and would have been contented with continuing him in a perpetual imprisonment. Wherefore having caus'd his Body to be put into a Coffin, he pursu'd his way towards *Carbal*, whence the Queen his Wife was coming to meet him; tho she had ever been kept as a Prisoner, the Prince had ever had her very civilly treated: *Aboulvalid* was mighty joyful to see her again, but could not forbear expressing much grief for *Abraham's* death; he caus'd the whole Court to put on * mourning, and assisted at his * *Hifu*,
Funeral, which he caus'd to be per- mourning,
form'd with great Pomp; nay, he was tears.
seen to shed tears in that occasion; but he had not the same mildness and clemency for all the Officers that sided with his Brother; he put a great number of them to Death, and set himself to retrieve his Authority, and set matters again to rights throughout the whole Empire.

General *Tariff* receiv'd a wound in his Right Arm in the Battel, which he had neglected at first, by not refrain-

O

ing

* The
Arabians
name is,
Faliaz,
Abra, in
November
718.

ing to mount on Horseback, after his usual manner; but through the little care he took of it, and through the toyl and drudgery of marching, his Arm swell'd in such manner as to gangre; and so in a few days time sent him out of the world.

Aboulvalid was much griev'd at the loss of so great a General, and to shew the esteem he had for him, he caus'd him to be Interr'd with great magnificency, and had the same honours paid him, as had been paid to the Person of his Brother. And I can certainly say one thing of him that is somewhat singular, that his Valour was accompany'd with such great Fortune in War, that he never undertook any enterprize but what he sped in to his honour.

This Prince, after having punish'd, as I have said, those that were revolted against him, began with recompencing those that had serv'd him so usefully in that War, by distributing among them the Governments, Lieutenancies, and Employs, insomuch, that they were all satisfy'd with the returns he made to their Services; and then set his thoughts upon enjoying amid Pleasure, the repose that had cost him so dear.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVI.

Adilbar, Vice-roy of Spain, leads his Army into Biscaya, against Pelagius, and thence returns without doing ought.

A *Dilbar* having sped so ill in the Siege of *Hispalis*, he had receiv'd order from King *Aboulvalid* his Master, to go the soonest he could, to make the Conquest of those Mountains, where *Pelage* had made his Retreat, and where an infinite number of *Christians* were gone to find him, from all the corners of *Spain*, to save themselves, with their Wives and Children, from the fury of the *Moors*.

Whereupon, he sent a Renegado-spy, to examine the strength of those Places where this Prince lurk'd, and to enquire into the number of the Souldiers he had with him, and the world of People that had there taken refuge.

O 2

The

The Renegado being entred into the Country, pretended to make his escape as well as the other *Christians*, from the Persecution of the *Moors*, and over-ran all the Mountains of *Biscaya*, where he most carefully observ'd all he saw, in pursuance of the orders he had receiv'd from *Adilbar*: But when upon his departure thence again, he was brought before *Pelage*, by the Guards he had plac'd upon the Frontiers, having been taken for a spy as he really was; *Pelage* ask'd him a Thousand Questions, but as he was cunning and crafty, he answer'd very pertinently, and without being at a loss: *Pelage* nevertheless was not willing to let him go, and kept him some days in Prison; but at length, finding nothing against him but a weak suspicion, with which his Imagination had been possess'd, he set him at liberty.

After this, the Renegado took his time so well, that he found the means to get again to *Cordoua*, where he deliver'd *Adilbar* an account of all that had befalln him, and of all he had seen; assuring him, that it was no difficult matter to force the pass of those Mountains, that were guarded only by

by the *Moors*.

by a small handful of men, of little Courage.

Adilbar being encourag'd by this Relation, resolv'd upon undertaking the War against *Pelage*, well perceiving that if he had once reduc'd the *Christians* of that Canton, *Hispalis* would no longer put him in pain, the succours that Town had receiv'd from *Biscaya*, having occasion'd it's not being surrendred. Wherefore he prepar'd suddenly to besiege it, as not believing those Mountainers could resist him long; and flattering himself with the hopes of rendering *Aboulvalid* the absolute Master of all *Spain*, as far as the *Pyrenean* Mountains, that separate it from *France*.

For this purpose he assembled twelve thousand Foot, and would not take any Horse along, as not believing they could be useful to him in so rocky a Country *. With this small Army, * *Gubaira*, compos'd of choice men, he advanc'd Country of Rocks. as far as the place by the *Spaniards* call'd the *Term of War*.

Pelage having notice of his march, conven'd the Principal Persons of the Cantons of *Biscaya*, to concert with them the means of opposing him; and their unanimous opinion was, to

think of defending the Entrance of the Mountains, which was very difficult; this was also the sentiment of *Pelage*; so as that having plac'd five hundred chosen men, and well arm'd in Ambuscade in a great Quarry or Den, that is under a steep Rock, *Pelage* plac'd himself a little higher with fifteen hundred men, being all he could assemble.

The *Moors* going about to mount, to get to that Mountains top, *Pelage* charg'd them with the small Forces he had, but had quickly been overcome, had not the five hundred men that were hid in that Cavern, as I newly hinted, appeared in the nick behind the Enemies, put them into disorder, kill'd a great number of them, and put all the rest to flight.

That day *Adilbar* by computation lost a thousand men, besides the great number of those that were dangerously Wounded; whereas the *Christians* lost but four hundred.

Pelage Retreated forthwith, with all his Men, into the hallow of those Mountains, to defend the Entrance of them, well knowing this to be the most important of all; insomuch, that *Adilbar*

bar inrag'd at the loss he had newly undergone; all the faults of which he reflected upon the *Christian* Renegado, who had deceiv'd him; he sent him to the Gallows.

After having well examin'd the difficulty there was in forcing such narrow and steep Passages, he found his continuing any longer in that Country, would be only the losing of time and men, and resolv'd to put off this Enterprize till another time, when as he might find an entrance more easie to force, than that from whence he had been newly repuls'd. Wherefore without staying there much longer, he return'd into *Andalousia*, where he dismiss'd his Army, and set his thoughts wholly upon Regulating and Policying that Kingdom, while *Pelage* and his People bless'd God for so favourable a success, and were confirm'd in their opinion of those Mountains, being made in due manner for the putting a stop to the Conquests of the *Moors*, and serve for an *Azylum* and Retreat to the *Christians*; wherefore they us'd their utmost endeavours to fortify them to the best advantage.

C H A P. XXVII.

Of the Death of the King of Tunis, and of the great Wars Aboulvalid was oblig'd to make to render himself Master of that Kingdom.

THE joy King *Aboulvalid* had for the victory he had gain'd over his Brother *Abraham*, was quickly ruffled by the news he receiv'd in a little space after, of the Death of his Father-in-law, *Mahomet Gilhair*. He left no other Children save Queen *Ombalair*, wherefore he resolv'd to send out of hand to take possession of so fine an Inheritance, for fear that if he deferr'd any longer, some change might happen, as commonly does in such occasions: for so solemn an Embassy, he chose one of his favourites, call'd *Abulcacim Aben Marchan*, who departed in great haste with all his Train, and was very kindly receiv'd by all the Grandees of

of that Court, and Lodg'd in the Deceased Kings Palace.

Having forthwith conven'd all the Members of the Council of that Kingdom, and having let them peruse the Powers he had from *Aboulvalid*, in his Name to take Possession of that State; they examin'd them, and having found them in the form they ought to be, King *Aboulvalid* was acknowledg'd and declar'd King of that great Kingdom, and *Abulcacim Aben Marchan* Vice-roy in his absence. But as in all times, and all Countries, People there are Transported with a desire of Ruling; one of the Principal Governours was there of this; who flattering himself with the thought that being *Mahomet Gilhairs* near Relation, the Kingdom ought rather to appertain to him, than to his Daughter, began under-hand to solicit all the Leading men and Governours, each in his turn, to assist him with his Forces. He represented to them, That being born in the Country, and with them brought up, and the late Kings nearest Relation, the Crown belong'd to him, rather than to a Foreigner; and had the knack so to coaks them with fine promises, that they at last resolv'd

solv'd among themselves for the most part, to throw off *Aboulvalid's* Yoak, and to place him in his stead upon the Throne. *Hacan* (so was this Captain call'd) wanting not courage for so noble an enterprize; having assembled all the heads of his Party, entred by main force into the Palace, where *Aben Marchan* had his residence. This Vice-King distrusted nothing; but as soon as he had notice of so very treacherous a design, having put himself upon his defence with what happen'd to be about him, he chose rather to dye in defending himself generously, than to fall alive into the hands of the Revolted. Thus though they only really desir'd to take him Prisoner, they kill'd him, with all those that were about him, without so much as one escaping.

The rumour of this rising being immediately spread, all those of *Hacan's* Party proclaim'd him King, after the wonted manner, taking withal an Oath of Allegiance to him: And this new King fail'd not at his accession to the Crown, to bestow favours upon all his Partizans, and to give, as all Usurpers do, all the orders necessary for the acquiring of reputation*.

At

* Tani, get into credit.

At that same time, one *Wednesday* ^{* Subb, a Comet.} evening, a very great Comet appear'd upon the Horizon; about whose angle it took up towards the *East*: It was accompany'd with very thick Clouds, extraordinary Winds, and pernicious Exhalations, and appear'd for forty whole days together. This very much affrighting the new King, he caus'd the Mathematicians and Astrologers of the Country to meet; who, after having very exactly examin'd the Elevation and Nature of this Comet, and the sign in which it rise, said that it threatened the Kingdom with great Wars, and the Kings Person with an imminent Death.

While they were still making their Observations, a great Earthquake was felt, and being repeated to the eighth, or ninth time; and there arose so furious a storm at Sea by the great *Eastern* Winds, that all the people of this Country, thought that the end of the World was coming; nay, they said they had heard by night, strange howlings in the Mountains, that seem'd to be roaring Lyons. But what most amaz'd and was most strange, was a Cloud that coming from the *West*, burst upon

on

on their heads, and rain'd a water of the colour of blood. The Earthquakes I have newly mention'd, had topsy-turvy'd some Houses, and over-whelm'd whole Families under their ruins; in-somuch, that not only the people, but the King himself was in a Consternation.

These surprizing signs of Heavens anger, were follow'd with a great scarcity of Corn, that famish'd to death several persons, as also with certain Contagious * Sores, that taking them in the Groyn, and behind the Ears, knock'd off a very great number.

* *Again.*

About valid, whom *Hacan's* Rebellion had very much inrag'd, seeing the people weary'd and ruin'd by all the late Wars, was not in a very good posture to undertake so great an one as this that fell upon his hands. He conven'd the Estates, where having expos'd the necessity he was under, to go reduce under his obedience a Kingdom that so lawfully belong'd to him, on the account of the Queen his Wife; and having demanded of them succours in Money, they answer'd him that they should not fail him in his need, but that it was requisite first to know in what state

state the Kingdom of *Thunis* was, and whether the Pestilence that had already lasted two months was ceas'd; the resolution was taken that enquiry should be made; and the persons sent thither brought word back, That a world of people was there dead of it, but that the contagion began to diminish. This occasion'd the hastening the preparations for that War; in-somuch, that a great number of stout Ships were fitted out for the taking on Board so great an Army, as was that then preparing to be embark'd in it, in the Spring in the Year following.

C H A P. XXVIII.

Aboulvalid makes Muca Generalissimo of his Armies, and after having reduc'd the Kingdom of Thunis under his Obedience, returns into Arabia.

MUCA had serv'd *Aboulvalid* usefully in the War he had with his Brother; he was his Father *Almanzor's* most Trusty Servant, and had had a great share in the honour of the Conquest of Spain: All these reasons made this Prince cast his eyes upon him, to confer on him the Conduct of his Army; and being then in his Government, he sent him an express Courier to give him notice of this new War, and that he had nominated him Generalissimo in all his Armies; the terms of his Letter to him were as follow.

Aboulvalid's

Aboulvalid's Letter to Muca Abenzairi, Generalissimo in his Armies.

Praise be to our Sovereign God, Amen.

THE most High, and most Dread, King of the Arabians; Vicar of God, and Defender of his Law, *Aboulvalid Abenacer; Son of the Martial, Caliph, and Protector of the Faith, Valid Almanzor; to the Governour of our Kingdom of Africa; the Prudent, Virtuous, and accomplish'd Gentleman, Loyal and Faithful Servant of our Crown, and Captain-General of our Armies, by Sea and Land; Muca Abenzair, Greeting. We write to you at present, to let you know that the Great Caliph Mahomet Gilhair, King of Thunis, our honour'd Lord and Father-in-law being dead, and the virtuous Abulcacim Aben Marchan our Servant, who had been in our name to take possession of that Kingdom, of Right and Justice to us belonging, hardly beginning to make our people tast the sweetness of our Reign,*
when

when Captain Hacan, as you doubtless have been already inform'd, entred by main force into the Palace Royal of Thunis; and after having kill'd our Governour, and all our faithful Servants, had withdrawn himself from his Allegiance to us; and by force, caus'd himself to be own'd the absolute King of all the Country; which he governs Tyrannically. Wherefore, for the recovery of that Kingdom, it is necessary that you assemble the greatest number of Troops as shall be possible for you, in the Kingdoms that are under your Government; and that you set forth with them and our Army, to repair to the Port of Capha *, in the midst of the month of Ragab, in the approaching hundredth Year of the Hegira; at which time, we will go to joyn you with the Army which we cause to be rais'd in the Kingdom of Syria and Arabia; till when we refer the resolving with you upon all matters, enjoyning you to order all as you shall judge most expedient, by your Prudence and Valour; wherein we have an entire confidence.

From our Presence, in the Palace of Corbal, in Arabia Felix, the 2d. of the Moon Mahairan, in the Year 99.

Muca

* It is not known in what place that Port is, nor how it's call'd at present.

Muca having received the King his Masters Orders, was overjoy'd at the employment with which he honour'd him; and having made Leavies throughout all his Kingdom, and heap'd up all sorts of Ammunition, as well for the Fleet he had fitted out, as for his Land Army; he embark'd with twenty thousand very brisk men, and made Sail towards the *Levant*, while the King was embark'd with twenty five thousand Foot, and eight hundred Horse, he had assembled in *Arabia*, and made Sail towards the *West*; insomuch, that the two Armies join'd happily in the Port of *Capha*. This fill'd this Prince full of joy, for he would needs come in Person to this War, well perceiving that when he should have reduc'd the Kingdom of *Thunis*, he was absolute Master of all *Africa*, from the Sea of the *Levant*, to that of the *Ponant*. Wherefore having Landed at *Thunis*, he found not any opposition at his descent, and had the means to marshal both his Armies in Battel-array.

Hacan being fully inform'd of these Warlike preparations, was extremely intimidated: Nevertheless, as he had been long prepar'd to maintain his

P

Usurpation,

Usurpation, he had assembled forty thousand Foot, and eight thousand Horse; with whom he went with great Resolution to meet *Aboulvalid*, and courageously stood his coming in a large Plain, not far distant from the Sea, and call'd *Falh Almaligue**; where having drawn up his Army in Battalia, it began by two bodies of Horse, that Skirmish'd for some time before they engag'd the rest in the Battel, that lasted all that day, from Three a Clock in the Afternoon, till Night*, that separated the two Armies with the loss of eight hundred Foot, and about three hundred Horse, on the Kings side; and five hundred Foot, and four hundred Horse on that of *Hacan*, without reckoning a number of Wounded; among others, one of *Muca's* Children, call'd *Ismael*, had two thrusts with a Pike in his Thigh, for which *Aboulvalid* was much concern'd. But the Father seeing the Grief his Master thence receiv'd, told him with a very gay and resolute countenance, that there was not matter for so much trouble as his Majesty express'd; neither he nor his Son being come thither to gain Riches, but to dye for his Service; and that thus,

* The Kings Field.

* *Dalam*, obscurity.

thus, though his Son should not recover of his Wounds, the matter would be small, since he was only Born to dye: On the contrary, he should hold his Death as well employ'd, because he had first so well aveng'd it; and this was true, for he had kill'd with his own hand a very great number of the Enemies; and that day perform'd actions worthy of an Eternal memory.

On the morrow, which was the 9th. At the beginning of the Moon of *Taqel*, in the hundredth Year, the Battel renew'd at break of day, and lasted till Noon, when *Hacan's* Men began to Buckle, and were at length by dint of Sword defeated. *Hacan* seeing the flight of his Forces, sought his safety in galloping after them.

The King being entred into *Thunis*, did not think he had gain'd an absolute Victory, unless he had *Hacan* in his hands: So as that he forthwith sent Foot and Horse out on all sides to seek him, promising them great rewards if they brought him to him. They sought him so well, that the Dogs of a Flock of Sheep barking after him in a Cave where he was hid, created a desire in them to go thither, and occasion'd

occasion'd his being taken. He was immediately brought before *Aboulvalid*, to whom having given a great deal of ill language, as a desperate man, that saw there was no Remission for him; the King, that was otherwise very mild, was so provok'd, that he caus'd him to be impal'd alive, and left him in that condition upon the Gate of the Town, where he languish'd five whole days; at the end of which he dy'd a very cruel Death. All the Principal Leaders of this Rebellion were then Beheaded; and one of the General Officers of the Army, call'd *Abraham Hacen*, was chosen to be Vice-roy of *Thunis*, in the room of *Hacan* the Rebel.

Aboulvalid having settled his Authority in that Country, and brought all things again into their Primitive order, set forth again with his Army towards the *Levant*; and being arriv'd at *Carbal*, where he was receiv'd with great Acclamations, the first thing he did, was to reward all the Principal men that had serv'd him in that War, and particularly *Muca*, whom he made of his high Council, and one of the Principal Ministers of his State. After this, with-

without staying longer in his Palace than was necessary to repose himself, he thought of taking a Pilgrimage to *Mecque*, whither he went with a part of his Court.

Being on his return through the *Desarts*, there arose so furious a Wind, that removing whole Mountains of Sand from one side to another, as sometime happens; it bury'd above three hundred Persons of his Retinue, that were found thus Interr'd alive, which much afflicted him. But having pass'd them, at the long run he arriv'd in good health in *Arabia Fælix*, where he was receiv'd with great joy by all his Court, and thought in good earnest to recreate himself, after all the troubles he had thitherto undergone.

CHAP. XXIX.

The Oath of Allegiance which Aboulvalid causes the States to take to Jacob Almanzor his Son.

THE Caliph thinking only now of leading a more calm and sedate life, and considering that he had not any other Children than *Jacob Almanzor* capable of succeeding him; he was very willing to secure to him the Crown, before he was overtaken by Death, that regards Kings no more than other men. For which reason, after having conven'd all the Grantees of his Kingdom, a *Morabite*, call'd *Mahomet Algaseli*, that was in great favour with him, and whose advice he demanded in things of the highest importance; by his order made them a long Speech, on which he gave them to understand, the reason for which he had call'd them together; which was to

by the Moors:

to own Prince *Jacob Almanzor* for Lawful King of all his great Realms, after his Fathers Death. The States having declar'd, they all approv'd this design, as a thing very advantageous to the good and profit of all the Nations. King *Aboulvalid* having one day put on his Royal Robes, sat in his Throne, and caus'd Prince *Jacob Almanzor* to sit there with him, on his Right Hand; and then all the Governours of the Places being present, *Mahomet Algaseli* the *Morabite*, being seated on the Kings Left Hand, rose up and utter'd these words, with a loud and intelligible voice: *Gentlemen, Honour'd Governours, Virtuous Lords, and all you here present; King Aboulvalid wills and requires, that you own Prince Jacob Almanzor, his Lawful Son, who is here present, for absolute Master of all his Realms, after his Death. Are you willing to make Oath to him accordingly? To which they answer'd aloud, Yes, we are willing; Do then, reply'd Algaseli, as a token of the Allegiance you promise to him, and of the Possession he from this present is going to take of the Crown, all that the King and I am going to do. Then the King rising, took his Son by the Hand, and seated him in*

P 4

his

*Curci
Almulq,
Canopy,
Throne.*

his Throne; and the Prince having taken the Right Hand of his Father, kiss'd it for a mark of his Obedience. The Father on his side, for a token of the Blessing* he gave him, laid his Hand upon his Head; and also kissing his Sons Hand, sat down by him on his Right Hand; *Algafeli* the *Morabite* did the same, and sat down on his Left; and after him all the Governours of the Provinces having also kiss'd his Hand; an *Alfaqui* having brought the *Alcoran*, wrapt up in a very rich stuff, and having laid it on the Table, *Algafeli* the *Morabite* rose up from his Seat, and lifting up his voice, that he might be heard by the whole Assembly: *Honorable Governours*, said he, and *Virtuous Knights*, and also every one of you here present; Do not you swear and promise by the Supreme God, and by all that is contain'd in this Book, to acknowledge and hold all your life long, Prince Jacob Almanzor, for your King and Sovereign of all the Realms, as Son and Lawful Heir, and Successour of King Aboulvalid Abenacer, his Father? And all having answer'd, *Yes*, we promise it: Let him then, the *Morabite* reply'd, that shall not accomplish what he has now promis'd, be declar'd

* Rida,
Benedicti-
on.

declar'd Perjur'd, Infamous*, and a Traytor * *Heir*,
to the State, and may the curse of the Great Infamous,
God fall upon him, and on all his; and Perjur'd.
the whole Assembly cry'd, *Amen*. And the *Morabite* having said, with an audible voice, That for the solemnity of their Oath of Allegiance, all should do the same as the King and he did. The King being got up, and having kiss'd the *Alcoran*, put it upon his Head, the *Morabite*, and all the Chiefs and Governours did the same afterwards, each in their order. After which, the *Morabite* being got up from his Seat, and having address'd his Speech to Prince Jacob Almanzor; Your Celsitude, said he to him, do you not swear and promise by the most Great, and most High, and by all that is contain'd in this Book, in Quality of Kings, and Sovereign of these Realms, to do Justice to his Subjects; and maintain and keep all the Priviledges, that the Kings his Predecessors in general, and each of them in particular have granted them; so as that you may cause them to live in Peace, and not suffer any wrong to be done them. And the Prince having said, *Yes*, and that he swore and promis'd it: Mind it well then, reply'd *Algafeli*, for if you do not do

do it, the curse of God will fall upon you, as upon one perjur'd; to which the Prince having answer'd, Amen: Let your Celitude then, continued he, *to show you make an solemn Oath, do as I do:* In uttering these words, he took the Book, and having kiss'd, and put it on his Head, he presented it to the Prince, who did the like.

This Ceremony being finish'd, all the Governours, and Leaders of Troops, going out before the Prince, set him on Horseback; and carry'd him around through the City, in great Pomp, amid the noise of a world of Instruments: And all alighting at the great Mosch; and having said their Prayers there, return'd with the same Pomp to the Palace, where the King his Father waited his coming, and where the whole Cavalcade ended and separated.

This solemnity lasted three whole days; during which, there was nought but Feasts, Conserts of Musick, Turnaments, and all the other Recreations to be thought of.

These

These three days that had been given to joy being pass'd, the King caus'd the States to be held once again in his Palace, to confirm and ratify all that had been done; and the *Morabite* open'd the Sessions in these terms. *Illustrious Captains, Generous Governours, Brave Cavaliers, that are here all present; do not you confirm and ratify the Oath of Allegiance, to Prince Jacob Almanzor, our Sovereign Lord, who is here present?* And all having answer'd *Tes*; and said expressly, that they ratify'd it. *Let all, pursu'd he, for the conclusion of so solemn an Oath, do then, as the King and I shall do:* In finishing these words the King arose, and having taken the *Alcoran*, he kiss'd it, and put it again upon the Table; he also took the Prince his Sons hand and kiss'd it; and after that the *Morabite*, and all those that compos'd that great Assembly, had done the same, they were dissolv'd, after having all receiv'd some favours from the King, who was very much satisfy'd with seeing the Accomplishment of a thing he had so much desir'd.

defir'd. This great Ceremony pass'd
in the ten first days * of the Moon
of *Rabeh*, on the first day of the
Year 104 of the *Hegira*.

*This date
falls in the
Year 725
of our
Lord, in
the month
of *March*.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXX.

*Aboulvalid's Death, who leaves
to one of his Kinsmen, call'd
Mahomet Amcari, the Re-
gency of his State, during his
Sons Minority.*

A *Boulvalid* was much joy'd to see all
his great Kingdoms in Peace, and
all the Wars and Dissentions he had
been oblig'd to undergo, absolutely
stifled: But as the Wheel of Fortune
turns continually, and there is no
man upon Earth, that has a con-
tinued and an accomplish'd happi-
ness; all Great, and all Mighty, as
he was, he try'd it like other men;
For he fell into so obstinate and so
violent a Fever, that whatever care
the greatest and ablest Physicians
in the World took, that were at
that time, they could not bring any
Remedy to it. Wherefore this Prince
seeing that all that was given him,
did

did him more hurt than good, resolv'd upon taking nothing at all: And one day, in their presence, and in that of the Principal Persons of his Court, he said, That he plainly perceiv'd it to be the Will of God, that he should dye of that illness; that thus he thank'd them for all the pains they had thitherto taken, and that he had no longer any need of them. Then he dismiss'd them, as well as all those that were about his Bed, and sent for *Mahomet Algaseli* the *Morabite*, to confer with him upon all things, and to provide the best he could for the Government of the State, after his Death; which was what put him most in pain: For he plainly saw his Son was as yet too Young, to be able to contain so many Nations in their Duty; and that it was absolutely requisite, to give the Regency of the State to some one, during his Minority. He was much at a loss, how to determine on whom to pitch; but he and *Algaseli* at last concluded, that there was not a man of more Ability, nor in whom more Confidence could be put, than in

in *Mahomet Amcari*; his very near Relation; infomuch, that having had him call'd to him, to tell him the choice he had made of his Person; and *Amcari* having made him a thousand Protestations of Acknowledgment and Fidelity, he nam'd him in his last Will and Testament, the Regent and Lieutenant-General of the Empire, till that his Son *Almanzor* was at Age to Govern.

He liv'd but a very few days after having declar'd his Will in this manner. And as he had govern'd with much Lenity and Justice, his Funeral, that was perform'd with great state, was accompany'd with a real Mourning by all the People, and with such tears as departed from a down-right Affliction. *Mahomet Amcari* having immediately taken upon him the management of Affairs, the Queen Mother resolv'd to live retired, as being well becoming a Widow; and that she might have the more care of her Son, and keep him in the greater security, withdrew to a Country House, whither the *Caliph Almanzor*, her Father-in-law, formerly retired; and

and where there was all sorts of Conveniences.

Wherefore being gone thither to shut her self up with all her Family, and that of the King her Son; *Amcar* seeing himself absolute Master of the State, and obey'd by all the Governours of all the Realms that compose this great Empire, began to be sensible of the movements of Ambition, and the desire of Reigning, that glides by little and little, like an Earth-worm, into the Hearts of all men; who from the nothing, wherein they were, see themselves rais'd up to Authority: For after having began to prick him on by little bites, they came at length to gnaw him all over.

Having his mind possess'd with this thought, and only thinking of the means to bring it about, he thought it expedient to begin with gaining over the Principal men of the Council and Army, and the Governours of the Towns and Provinces; as those that had all the Forces of the State in their hands. Wherefore he let not any occasion slip, of making them Presents, and
of

of obliging them. When any of them dy'd, he only put in their place such people as of whom he was well assured*, and whom he thought would not fail him on occasion; and did this with so much dissimulation, that as he spoke to no body of his design, nor did any body perceive it. At length, having dispos'd all things to his fancy; having reduc'd them to the point he judg'd proper for the Executing of his Treason, he would needs communicate his mind to one of his principal friends, whom he had made head of the Council of War, call'd *Aben Culeyman*; who told him frankly, That since he ask'd him his advice, he found great inconveniences, in undertaking a thing of that nature, as long as the Prince *Jacob Almanzor* his Master was alive: For as he was beloved by all his Fathers Creatures, there would be doubtless, many Governours that would declare for him; that this enterprize would seem very strange to the *Arabians*; and that it would meet with great difficulties in the Provinces; where, in imitation of him-
Q self,

* *Murben*,
ready to
serve him.

self, there would not be a Governour, but would make himself King, in the extent of his Government: That thus, whereas all he intended to do, was only to augment his Authority, and be absolute and independant, he would find himself abyss'd, in the stormy Sea of Wars, which such an *over-turning would occasion; and that after he had thus Rioted the people, it would be no longer in his power to calm them: These reasons seem'd very pertinent to *Mahomet Amcari*; and as he had ever sped in following the other Councils given him by *Aben Culeyman*, he plainly saw, that this he then gave him, departed from a man consummated in the experience of State Affairs: Wherefore he bethought himself of an indubitable expedient, which was to rid himself of Prince *Almanzor*. He was resolv'd not to communicate this thought to any other than the same *Aben Culeyman*; but that Wise Counsellour still endeavoured to divert him gently, and by the best reasons he could bethink himself of, from so wicked a design; being in no wise

*Sutze,
Rebellion.

wise able to approve of so horrible a cruelty, and so base and black an action. Nevertheless perceiving he could not root this intention out of his mind, he was furiously vex'd; and having at last resolv'd upon applying a fitting remedy, he thought it to be time to discover the secret of this Treason, to the Captain-General, as to his best friend, and to the Prince his Masters most Faithful Servant. *Muca* being much surpriz'd at such an infidelity, having confirm'd his friend in the design he already had, of preventing so great a mischief; after having concerted together what they had to do, and promis'd one another the strictest secrecy, they resolv'd that *Aben Culeyman* should continue to put the Regent upon this matter, of which he made him the confident; and that he should endeavour to discover by what byass he pretended to bring about his design, that so they might by the same means break all his measures.

This being their result, *Aben Culeyman* happening to be with *Amcari* alone, did not fail to put him upon

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that Chapter; and the Regent having told him, That finding the difficulties he had urg'd rational to all intents, he was resolv'd to overcome them, by causing the Prince to be Poyson'd; after which all things would be easie to him: *Aben Culeyman* having to this made him answer, That he was in the right; and having much ado to entertain the vexation he had on this account, he left him as soon as he could, and went in all hast to inform *Muca*. These two Trusty Servants, considering the blackness of the Regents action, and of what a consequence it was to think of saving the Prince their Master, from the peril that was preparing against him, found there to be less evil in bereaving the Traytor *Mahomet Amcari* of his life, and fail him in that occasion, than to keep his secret, to be Traytors to their Lawful King: Wherefore they both resolv'd together, that they might make the less noise and disorder, to invite him one day to Dinner, and to seize on his Person while at Table: But in the mean while, for fear the

the Prince should fall into the Trap that was laid for him, while they were taking their measures for so hardy a design, they thought it convenient to inform the Queen of all that pass'd, that so she might be upon her Guard, against the Treason that was preparing against the Prince her Son. Whereupon *Muca* went to her with all Expedition, in that retir'd House I mention'd; and having acquainted her with the Regents Perfidy, she was much afflicted; but she receiv'd comfort at the same, in having found such Loyal Persons as would discover it to her. *Muca* having intreated the Queen, to keep the matter very secret, as it highly became her to do, both for her Sons sake; and the whole Kingdoms; and having assur'd him, she might make account of him, and that he was resolv'd to dye for her Service; he return'd in all hast to the Court of *Mahomet*, the Regent.

C H A P. XXXI.

The Regent Amcari, meaning to bereave Prince Almanzor of his Life, is discover'd, and punish'd for his Perfidy.

Mahomet Amcari, still contriving to work the Princes Death, and seeking for that purpose, the safest and least noisic means, caus'd a very rich * Garment to be made, to make him a Present of, as is customary at certain times : And after having caus'd it to be well prepar'd, with a very subtle Poyson, sent it to the Prince, with a thousand other very gallant, and very curious Presents.

All those of the Queens Palace, seeing these Presents unfolded, were immediately transported with the beauty of that Vestment; all saying, That the Prince could not put on

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by the Moors:

a finer : But the Queen being afraid of its being poyson'd, would by no means suffer him to wear it that day, no not so much as try it : And the Night being come, to see if she had any reason to harbour such apprehensions, she had it put upon a great Greyhound, that was found dead on the morrow, his Skin all cover'd with Sores.

Mahomet's malice and design being then past all doubt, this generous Princess being very Prudent, and having a Courage above her Sex; without making any noise of the thing she had discover'd, or of the resolution she had taken in her mind to punish such an attempt, sent to tell Mahomet Amcari, the Regent, That the Prince would be very glad to see him, and she also, to discourse upon some matters of consequence. And knowing him to be upon the way thither, she caus'd all her Guards to keep the entrance of the Gate, as if it were to do him honour; but with order, That none of his should be admitted in with him. As soon as he was entred, they seiz'd on

Q 4

his

his Person, and brought him into the Queens presence; who having reproach'd him with his perfidy, and told him how she knew all his Treacherous design, she had an Executioner call'd in, whom she had at hand on purpose for his Execution, and had his Throat cut into the Basen of a Fountain that was in the Castle: Then having caus'd his Body to be laid upon an Ass, had it carry'd to *Carbal*, and so through all the Streets of that City, follow'd by the publick Criers, who by sound of Trumpet, Proclaimed he was in that condition, for having design'd to Poyson his King, and seize on the Crown; and after having left it in the publick place, she caus'd his Head to be set upon the Gate of the City.

She did not long defer coming to *Carbal*, with the Prince her Son; and entring the Palace, she sent immediately for the two Faithful Servants, who had revealed to her this most Trayterous design; and told them, That the obligation she lay under, for the Service they had

had both newly done her, was so great, that she knew not how to express the acknowledgement she had of it; that the only reward proportionate to it; was the Regency of the State; that she had had a design to give it to the one and to the other: but that as this great Authority which they both equally deserv'd, could not be divided, and that she was afraid of offending one of the two, if she gave it to the other, she was resolv'd to Govern the best she could her self, without giving any one that Title; but that she would ever manage all things by their Councils, and that they should ever be the first of the State after her. They were both very well satisfy'd with this resolution; and News being come of a Party that was framing in the *West*, she sent them both, as those in whom she had most confidence; namely, *Aben Culeyman* into the Kingdom of *Thunis*, and *Muca* into that of *Morocco*, with an absolute Authority, there to contain the People in their Duty. Whereupon they both departed from *Carbal*,

bal, cover'd with Honour and Testimonies of Esteem and Affection, which the Queen and Prince gave them, and took their way towards the *Ponant*, where they safely arriv'd; but in a short while after, *Aben Culeyman* falling ill, dy'd on the way: *Muca* spent his time in setting things in order, in a Kingdom he had so long since left; and Queen *Ombalair* remain'd sole Regent.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXXII.

Prince Almanzor's Death; the Queen his Mother dyes of Grief, in a short time after, and Ali Abilhachek causes himself to be Proclaimed Caliph.

Queen *Ombalair* made it the whole study and application of her mind, to bring up well her Son, the Prince *Jacob Almanzor*, whom she had ever in her Eye. One day when that she was gone to Dine with him, in a Garden out of the Town, the Prince after Dinner threw himself upon a Bed, in a Room where he fell a sleep; and a Spider having prick'd him in the Right Eye, his Face swell'd in such a manner, and put him to such great Pain, and occasion'd such dangerous Fits, as that he liv'd but seven days.

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The Queen laid his Death so to heart, that not being capable of receiving any Consolation, or of surviving a Son, for whom she had so tender an affection; she fell into so great a Languishment, that all the Remedies of the Physicians in no wise easing her Malady, she dy'd fifteen days after him.

These two Deaths, so sudden and so close upon one another, occasion'd a mighty amazement in the Court, that was for some time in such a surprize, that their whole discourse was upon so extraordinary a thing. But at length, coming to think that there was none left of the Race of the *Almanzors*, to whom the Crown appertain'd by Succession; the Leading men of the *Arabians*, and the Governours of the Provinces, began to make their Cabals. One of them, call'd *Ali Abilhacheck*, chancing to have more Friends than the rest, caus'd himself to be Proclaim'd *Caliph*; and after having caus'd an Oath of Allegiance to be taken to him, and had his Coronation solemniz'd with great Pomp, with the Solemnity, and the Merri-
ments

ments that are wont to be practis'd in such like occasions; he began with rewarding those that rais'd him to the place he held, giving them Governments and Employments; insomuch, that there was no body but on whom he conferr'd some favour: Besides this, he apply'd himself in good earnest to make regulations upon all abuses that were introduc'd into the Government, and to do Justice to all those that requir'd it of him, without making them wait; insomuch that he acquir'd in a short time not only a great Reputation, but also the friendship of all the people; they esteem'd themselves very happy in being govern'd by so good a King.

Thus ended the Line of the *Aboul-valid Almanzors*.

The End of the First Part.
